

Aeroflot resumes Beirut flights

BEIRUT (R) — The Soviet airline Aeroflot resumed flights between Beirut and Moscow on Wednesday almost a year after they stopped following the kidnapping of four Soviet diplomats. A TU-154 airliner with 45 passengers landed at the airport in the southern suburbs of west Beirut Wednesday afternoon and left on the return trip with 145 passengers an hour later. Aeroflot stopped flying here after the four diplomats were kidnapped in last September. One was shot dead and the others were freed unharmed a month later. The resumption of flights raises to four the number of foreign airlines flying to Beirut, and comes a month after troops from Syria arrived in west Beirut to help Lebanese security forces keep the peace. The other airlines are Czechoslovakian, Romanian and Bulgarian. Many foreign operators took Beirut off their itineraries after hijackers held hostage 39 Americans from a U.S. airliner hijacked there for two weeks in June last year.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Iraqi Kurds elect local parliament

ERBIL, Iraq (R) — Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurds, some in traditional costume, voted on Wednesday for a new legislative council in the autonomous region of Kurdistan, in northern Iraq. They chose between 148 candidates, including eight women, for the 50-seat local parliament, which has a three-year term. Results will be declared Thursday and the council will hold its first session to elect a speaker in two week's time. One old man cast his vote even though he could barely walk. "I am 100 years old, but I insist on sharing with my people in electing representatives," said Hassoun Hamad Athab. Haj Ali Saleh, aged 80, held his wife's arm as they went to vote, and Sameera Rassoul, 32, brought her five children along. Reporters saw thousands of Kurds voting in Erbil, the provincial capital. There was no sign of disruption by rebels fighting the Baghdad government.

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King sends good wishes to Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day. The King extended heartfelt felicitations to the Pakistani people and wished President Zia happiness and good health.

Ele Jan Saaf to succeed Halkqvist

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Ele Jan Saaf, at present director of personnel at United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) HQ, Vienna, who had served between September 1981 and June 1985 as deputy director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, will take over as UNRWA director in Jordan from Mr. Per Olof Halkqvist who will be transferred to Lebanon as director of UNRWA affairs there with effect from the same date. Mr. Peter Hawkins at present director of UNRWA operations in Gaza who was designated to succeed Mr. Halkqvist will succeed Mr. Saaf as director of personnel.

Abu Nidal claims Gaza bombing

BEIRUT (R) — A radical Palestinian group claimed responsibility for planting a bomb in the Israeli-occupied town of Gaza, in a statement distributed Tuesday night in Beirut. The printed statement, delivered to an international news agency, said the "Fateh-Revolutionary Council" headed by Abu Nidal blasted a car company owned by former mayor of Gaza Rashad Shawwa on Monday. The statement bore the emblem of the group and said the bomb exploded while demolition experts were trying to defuse it.

Arab land dealer attacked in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian land dealer in the Israeli-occupied West Bank was slightly injured on Tuesday when unidentified men fired at his vehicle near Bethlehem. Jamil Asa, brother of the mayor of Iddiya, a small town in the Bethlehem area, was hit by flying glass, the sources said. Several Arab land dealers have in recent years been the target of attacks by Palestinians who accuse them of buying West Bank land to sell to Jewish settlers.

Japan launches two satellites

TOKYO (AP) — Japan successfully launched two satellites into orbit on Wednesday, using for the first time a Japanese-built engine that used liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen as fuel, officials said. National Space Development Agency spokesman Michihisa Hagiwara said the rocket, called H-1, was launched at 5:45 a.m. (20:45 GMT) from the Tanegashima space centre on Tanegashima Island, off Japan's southern main island of Kyushu. He said the launch was a success. The rocket carried an amateur radio satellite, JAS-1, which is expected to stay in orbit for about three years, said Takenobu Kaieda of the Japan Amateur Radio League Inc.

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King returns after 3-day visit to UAE

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home on Wednesday after a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he held talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan on current Arab affairs, the latest developments in the Middle East, ways to solve inter-Arab differences and settle the Iran-Iraq war.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid. Sheikh Zayed headed a high-level UAE delegation at a farewell ceremony upon the King's departure from Abu Dhabi. The two leaders held talks earlier on Tuesday at Abu Dhabi and later drove to the oasis city of Al 'Ain where they spent Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Diplomats quoted by Reuter said King Hussein and Sheikh Zayed also discussed financial support from the UAE for Jordan's \$1.3 billion five-year development plan for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. UAE newspapers on Tuesday and Wednesday stressed the importance of the King's visit to Abu Dhabi and his meeting with

Sheikh Zayed "under the current circumstances where the Arab Nation is facing decisive challenges."

In an editorial, the Al Wihda daily said the Arabs "at this stage need strong solidarity to face enemies who are trying to exploit Arab differences to achieve their goals of Arab rights."

The paper paid tribute to the role played by Jordan and the UAE to unify Arab ranks and said the King's talks with Sheikh Zayed were "within the framework of joint endeavours to overcome obstacles impeding the Arab march and to heal Arab differences."

On Wednesday, the King visited agricultural projects in Al 'Ain where the Abu Dhabi government has helped farmers develop hundreds of fruit, vegetable and cereal farms.

Jordan Television showed the

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan is not bound by U.S. embargo on Libya — Dajani

Transport minister explains release of plane

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Jordan's decision to allow a British airliner, powered by American-made engines, to fly to Tripoli came because the government here is not bound by the U.S. embargo against Libya, Transport Minister Rajai Dajani said Wednesday.

Furthermore, he added, the British authorities failed to produce legal grounds to keep the plane impounded on Jordanian territory.

"Jordan is not bound by the U.S. embargo and, from the principle of sovereignty, the

Kingdom is not in a position to carry out embargo action on behalf of another country," Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times.

He said the plane, once owned by the British Caledonian independent airline, was bought by the Libyan Airlines "in accordance with British laws and a legal sales contract."

The minister said the plane — on its way to Libya — landed at the Queen Alia International Airport on June 20, where it was painted with Libyan Airline colours.

He said the Libyan Airlines had

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Mr. Rajai Dajani

Novosti: Helsinki talks do not mean renewed ties with Israel

HELSINKI (Agencies) — The Soviet press agency Novosti said on Wednesday that the holding of talks here next week between Israel and the Soviet Union does not mean that Moscow intends to resume diplomatic relations with the Israelis.

Representatives of the two countries are scheduled to meet in Helsinki next Monday and Tuesday, and Novosti said the talks would deal with matters of Soviet property in Israel and consular help for Soviet citizens.

In a report issued in Helsinki, Novosti — which distributes features and analyses to the non-Soviet press — said the parties making up the ruling coalition in Israel, along with the foreign ministry and the media there, had again begun speculating that Moscow might be thinking of re-establishing links at state level with Israel.

It said Moscow's decision to hold the talks with Israel had been

taken as a pretext for "this propaganda campaign."

The Soviet agency said Moscow had decided to break off relations with Israel after the Israeli attack on Arab countries in 1967.

Novosti said: "The acts and words of Israeli government circles have not revealed anything since then to indicate they intend to abandon their policy of aggression and expansion. So there is no reason for any revision of the Soviet decision."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Tuesday the Soviet Union was moving cautiously to renew ties with Israel because Moscow is concerned about Arab reaction.

The Soviet decision to talk with Israeli representatives in Helsinki, is "very reluctant, measured step," Mr. Peres told the AP while touring the northern Galilee region.

Reagan hopeful of summit

CHICAGO (R) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan said on Tuesday he was optimistic there would be a superpower summit this year, and that it would achieve more progress than any similar meeting in years.

He told a news conference in answer to questions here: "Yes, I am optimistic that we are going to make more progress than there has been in a number of years..."

He added without elaboration that this could be because of "some of the problems facing the General Secretary (Mikhail Gorbachev) at this time."

U.S. officials have said repeatedly that they believe economic pressures exerted on Mr. Gorbachev by a struggling Soviet economy may be pushing him towards a strategic arms deal with the United States.

The Americans have said they believe the Soviet Union is reluctant to embark on an unrestrained and costly high technology weapons race with the United States in the face of Mr. Reagan's announced

determination to build a "Star Wars" anti-missile shield in space.

Mr. Reagan said he had not yet received a report from a high-powered team of U.S. arms control negotiators that concluded two days of talks in Moscow.

"I'm waiting for their report to see where we stand," he said. He said he had received no reply yet from Mr. Gorbachev to his latest arms control proposal last month.

The Washington Post said Wednesday that the U.S.-Soviet arms talks that ended on Tuesday in Moscow are expected to continue in Washington in preparation for a summit meeting.

In a report from Moscow, the newspaper quoted sources close to the negotiations as saying the two delegations that met there expected to meet in Washington late in August or early in September.

It said the Moscow talks were described as probing and the follow-up talks in Washington were expected to be more likely to produce results.



Muslim pilgrims make their Tawaf (hurried walk) around their holiest shrine, the Ka'aba covered with a black tapestry and embroidered with verses of the Holy Koran. The arched columns in the background are the colonnades of Al Haram Al Sharif (the Holy Mosque) that surrounds the Ka'aba. The Ka'aba houses the sacred Black Stone. (J.T. file photo).

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'Eid Al Adha begins tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the Islamic World on Friday celebrate 'Eid Al Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice), which marks the conclusion of this year's pilgrimage to Mecca, Medina and other holy places in Saudi Arabia.

On the occasion of the feast, Jordan observes a public holiday beginning today, Thursday, and returns to work on Tuesday. Special prayers are scheduled to be held in mosques around the Kingdom on the occasion of the religious feast.

Pilgrims gather at Mount Arafat near Mecca on Thursday evening for the climax of religious ceremonies preceding the day of sacrifice in the Holy City. On Friday, assembled at the foot of Mount Arafat, they will slaughter hundreds of thousands of sheep as a symbol of sacrifice, marking the end of the annual pilgrimage, Islam's

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, Aug. 16, Sunday, Aug. 17 and Monday, Aug. 18 due to the 'Eid Al Adha holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Tuesday, Aug. 19. We wish our readers and advertisers a very happy 'Eid Al Adha.

most sacred duty.

Over a million of the faithful are in Saudi Arabia from all corners of the globe to perform the pilgrimage including a group from Jordan and another from territories occupied by Israel since 1948.

Iraqi-hit tankers still ablaze at Sirri

BAHRAIN (R) — Fire still raged on Wednesday on two supertankers crippled in Tuesday's Iraqi air strike on Iran's Sirri Island oil terminal.

As a fleet of salvage tugs tried to clear the debris, sources in Norway and the Gulf said the Sirri outlier might soon be back in operation.

Iraq's low-level raid damaged three tankers and killed as many as seven crewmen, creating havoc and sending most tankers steaming away from the terminal.

The sources said many of the tankers that left were still lying off the United Arab Emirates port of Dubai and awaiting instructions from Iran.

The makeshift Sirri terminal is about 160 kilometres west of the mouth of the Gulf and previously

had been considered out of range of the Iraqi airforce.

Almost all Iran's oil exports — estimated at 1.4 to 1.9 million barrels per day — have been channelled through Sirri following continued Iraqi strikes against the Kharg Island facility in the northern Gulf.

Veteran Filipino sailor Adriano Tambuyat, 45, aboard the 39,722-tonne Venture, was hit in the shoulder by flying shrapnel when the Iraqi jets struck.

He told Reuters after receiving medical treatment in Dubai: "It was all so sudden. I heard a noise, looked up and saw a plane diving in front of the ship. There was a big bang and I fell back unconscious."

One rocket slammed into the

starboard hull near the Venture's waterline and another hit the cabin hatch cover just over his head.

The Iraqi attackers also scored a direct hit on the 121,970-tonne supertanker Azarpad. Five big explosions were reported overnight as the tanker broke its back and it was later towed onto a sandbank to prevent it sinking.

"She's probably considered a total loss," one shipping source said.

A tanker alongside the Azarpad, the 176,070-tonne Klelia, was still burning after early attempts to douse the flames failed.

The attack poses Iran with a major problem, the sources said, with Sirri now shown to be

Tlas: Syria ready to fight Israel any moment

KUWAIT (AP) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas was quoted here Wednesday as saying there could be no U.S.-brokered peace between the Arabs and Israel and that only war will settle the Middle East conflict.

In an interview published in the newspaper Al Qabas, Mr. Tlas also said his armed forces were stronger than ever before and were "ready to fight Israel at any moment."

He warned Israel that "any military assault (on Syria) will be no picnic for the Israeli forces who will suffer heavy casualties."

The paper said he refused to elaborate on sophisticated military equipment which his army has acquired in the course of the interview conducted while he was vacationing in Paris.

Attacking the United States Mr. Tlas said: "Betting on the U.S. administration is wrong because the U.S. administration only implements Israel's policy, and what it is offering the Arabs is not peace but surrender to Israel."

The paper said Damascus refused to receive U.S. Vice-President George Bush when he was on a recent tour of the Middle East because Mr. Bush

(Continued on page 3)

Hassan II said to have promised Mubarak renewed diplomatic ties

CAIRO (AP) — Morocco's King Hassan II has promised to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt "as soon as possible," a state-owned weekly magazine says.

Al Mussawar, in its edition published on Thursday, said King Hassan made the pledge in a message to President Hosni Mubarak that was delivered by a royal envoy a few days ago.

The weekly attributed its information to the political writer, a customary euphemism for editor Makram Mohammad Ahmad, who is known to be close to Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak met on Saturday with King Hassan's emissary, former Foreign Minister Abdel Hadi Boutaleb, who delivered two

messages from the monarch. Egyptian officials said then that one message briefed Mr. Mubarak on King Hassan's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres at Ifrane, Morocco, last month.

Nothing was said about contents of the second message. "In the second message," Al Mussawar said, "King Hassan assured President Mubarak that Morocco intends to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt as soon as possible."

Morocco was among 17 Arab countries that severed diplomatic ties with Egypt in 1979 to protest its treaty with Israel.

If King Hassan fulfils his reported promise, Morocco would be the second Arab country to resume ties with Egypt. Jordan

restored diplomatic relations in September 1984.

Mr. Mubarak publicly endorsed King Hassan's talks with Mr. Peres in strong terms while the Ifrane meeting was under way.

Al Mussawar quoted the king as saying in his message there was no longer anything to prevent him from restoring ties after his resignation as chairman of the Arab summit.

The king announced that resignation in a letter to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi that was made public on July 27.

King Hassan's letter to Mr. Klibi said he was stepping down because of hostile reaction "in certain Arab capitals" to his talks with Mr. Peres.

China welcomes Soviet initiative

PEKING (Agencies) — China welcomed a Soviet initiative to improve Sino-Soviet ties on Wednesday but criticised Moscow over the situation in Kampuchea.

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told Soviet Charge d'Affaires U.P. Fedotov that China wanted an early normalisation of Sino-Soviet relations and hoped Moscow would seriously consider Peking's views, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told a weekly press briefing.

He said Mr. Fedotov promised to report to Moscow after being summoned to the ministry to hear China's reaction to last month's speech by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which offered some concessions to China.

Mr. Gorbachev had offered in his speech to open talks on joint reduction of troops along the Chinese-Soviet border.

He said the Soviet Union and Mongolia, a Kremlin ally, were discussing withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country, presumably those stationed along the China-Mongolia border.

Mr. Wu said China welcomed and attached importance to Mr. Gorbachev's speech, but added that it was still far from removing the three major obstacles to improved Sino-Soviet links.

In particular, he said, Mr. Gorbachev had evaded the question of the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

Kohl decries Berlin Wall

WEST BERLIN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl branded the Berlin Wall a monument to inhumanity on Wednesday and warned East Berlin that the West would never cease demanding it be torn down to allow free contact between the German peoples.

But in an address commemorating the 25th anniversary of the division of Berlin, the chancellor also pledged that Bonn would seek steadily improving relations with East Germany to try to ease the divisions the wall had caused.

South Lebanon truce takes hold after overnight clashes

18 French UNIFIL troops injured by gunfire

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A ceasefire between French peacekeeping troops and Muslim militiamen took hold in South Lebanon Wednesday after another soldier was wounded.

United Nations sources said battles with rocket launchers and automatic rifles subsided at dawn after Amal militia chiefs urged an end to the fighting near the port city of Tyre.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said that despite the truce, agreed Tuesday, overnight firing around besieged French positions wounded one soldier.

This brought to 18 the number of French U.N. troops injured at villages in the South, a strategically crucial area close to Israel's northern border. Three Shiite militiamen have been reported killed.

Goksel said Amal fighters appeared to have removed most of the roadblocks they had set up around French positions since the flare-up Tuesday.

Trouble erupted after Amal officials Haidar Ali Khalil and Hassan Duhaimi died on Monday night their car was fired on from a U.N. checkpoint.

Amal leaders in Beirut, meanwhile, repeated their movement's support for UNIFIL, set up in 1978 to supervise an Israeli withdrawal from the country.

Israel still holds a "buffer zone" in the South, which it claims is "to protect its northern settlements"

was doing well after the operation. Goksel said.

The 16-hour confrontation tapered off at 2:15 p.m. (1115 GMT) Tuesday, when Amal militiamen heeded orders from their chieftain Nabih Berri, Lebanon's justice minister, to stop shooting at the French.

Goksel said a French repair shop at Maarakeh was hit by gunfire and burned overnight.

Amal sources in Tyre said the militia's South Lebanon commander Daoud Daoud issued new orders Wednesday for a "cessation of all forms of hostilities against UNIFIL."

The sources said violators of Berri's stop-shooting orders were "friends and comrades" of Amal's Maarakeh local commander Haidar Khalil, who was killed with his bodyguard at a French checkpoint on Monday night.

Mr. Berri's office in Beirut issued a statement on his behalf Tuesday night, appealing to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez Cuellar and the French government to consider the confrontation a "regrettable incident between members of the same rank."

Mr. Berri said Amal wanted good relations with the nine-nation peacekeeping force "despite the events of the past day" and appealed to his militiamen to "rise above your sounds and make Israel your only target."

Amal boasts that it has been the spearhead of commando warfare against Israeli occupation forces in

South Lebanon, which has a predominantly Shiite population.

Goksel said UNIFIL's Fijian and Irish positions in Ain Baal and Tibnin south and south east of the French zone came under automatic grenade fire during the night, but no casualties were reported.

In addition to France, Fiji and Ireland, six other nations contribute to the 5,300-strong UNIFIL. They are Finland, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Ghana and Nepal.

Goksel said the Fijian and Irish positions were "attacked heavily" with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns.

U.N. troops were on a state of alert after the clashes, said Goksel, speaking by telephone from the U.N. headquarters at Naqurah.

Asked if UNIFIL would bring in extra troops and weaponry to reinforce the French contingent, Goksel said: "There have been adequate measures taken to deal with the situation."

"I think we are now seeing some localised efforts to take advantage of the situation," said one U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In recent days, observers said, Shiite Muslim clergymen of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, have issued statements opposing U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978, which gave UNIFIL a mandate to help the Lebanese government extend its control down to the border with Israel.

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NAAA urges ban on aide's access to secrets

WASHINGTON (R) — An Arab American group has urged the Defense Department to suspend the security clearance of a top Pentagon official and to look into allegations he might illegally have passed sensitive information to Israel.

But the Pentagon said the official, Undersecretary of Defense Stephen Bryen, passed an FBI investigation and was given a top-secret security clearance only after thorough background checks.

Bryen denied any wrongdoing. The National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), released at a news conference Tuesday Justice Department documents acquired after a court battle under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which NAAA director David Sudd said raised questions about Bryen's reliability.

"We urge that the Pentagon suspend the security clearances of Stephen Bryen pending an investigation," he said. Mr. Sudd said the material the NAAA obtained in its lawsuit had not been available when the Pentagon conducted its background investigation of Bryen.

Bryen said in a statement, "any fair-minded person reading these documents would conclude that there was never a basis for questioning my integrity."

He said the Pentagon had reviewed the newest documents released by the NAAA and had found nothing questionable.

"Over the past eight years, I have been the object of five separate investigations or reviews, all of them the result of false allegations brought by the NAAA," he said.

One Justice Department document released to journalists referred to Bryen's efforts, while working for the Senate in the late 1970s, to obtain Pentagon documents on Saudi military bases and jet aircraft purchases and on Jordanian weapons sites.

The 1979 document said Michael Saba, an Arab American businessman, told FBI agents he overheard Bryen in a coffee shop conversation with several Israeli embassy officials offering to give them data, including the document on bases.

Iraqi raid raises doubts over Sirri

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq's air strike on Iran's Sirri oil terminal could halt Iranian oil exports for the next few days and has called into question the whole future of the site for Iran's crude exports, oil and shipping sources said.

The disruption to the exports of OPEC's second-largest oil producer had an immediate effect on world oil markets, with prices in London and New York rising some 35 cents a barrel.

Traders reported that European sellers of Britain's North Sea Brent for October loading were seeking \$14.15 a barrel, up from \$13.75 in the United States Monday night, while September sellers wanted \$13.60 instead of \$13.35.

West Texas Intermediate rose in New York to \$15.31 a barrel, a rise of 40 cents at midday Tuesday.

The raid and the threat of new ones will probably have a psychological effect on the Far East oil market, pushing prices up even if supplies from Sirri are not seriously interrupted, traders said.

Further support to oil prices was given by reports of sales cutbacks by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar for September and October under last week's OPEC accord to slash output for those two months to reduce the world oil glut. Gains on Middle East crude blends were roughly in line with Brent.

Shipping sources in London and the Gulf said the raid would probably cause an early sharp rise in insurance and freight rates for vessels calling at Sirri, if not the rest of the Gulf.

The blow to Iran, heavily dependent on oil revenues to fuel its war with Iraq, is enormous, the Gulf sources said. "It must be the biggest economic setback Iran has suffered for quite a while," one analyst told Reuters.

Until Tuesday's operation, possibly launched with mid-flight refuelling, Sirri Island and the entire southern Gulf was generally considered safe from Iraqi warplanes.

The choices facing Iran seem daunting, although it will undoubtedly attempt to counter the blow and resume operations, analysts said. "They've managed before. I reckon they'll continue to keep trying," one source said.

Iran can eventually resume operations at Sirri under the constant threat of attack, or it can shift once again to what has proved to be a troublesome new loading terminal at Larak Island near the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

A move to Larak would be fraught with problems. Iran shifted operations there in late June in case Iraq developed long-range strike capabilities, but had to abandon them in July because monsoon winds were too dangerous. The monsoon season should end in a few weeks, but until then loading is likely to continue to be risky — and the monsoon weather returns next summer.

Also, some shippers are worried that if Iraq jets can strike 400 miles down the Gulf to Sirri, they might also be able to go 100 miles further to raid Larak. "Possibly they can reach the Strait of Hormuz," one shipping source commented, thus covering the entire Gulf.

A trader in London with a Japanese firm predicted that Larak would grow congested if tankers moved there.

Sirri itself had been used as a transit terminal, where tankers brought oil from Iran's main Kharg Island outlet in the northern Gulf to offload on to vessels unwilling to sail up into the heart of the Iraqi war zone.

After Tuesday's raid, Iranian authorities ordered all operations halted and told tankers to wait 15 miles to the east, shipping sources said. The sources said the strike had not only set tankers ablaze but also damaged installations on the island itself — possibly including storage tanks.

Even if that damage were not serious and Iran decided to return to Sirri soon, its efforts will still be hampered. The air raid damaged one or two of the estimated five supertankers that had been used for storage, and set ablaze the

233,788-deadweight-tonne Azarap, one of the shuttle fleet. That whittled down an already severely stretched shuttle fleet. Before Tuesday, Iraqi strikes over the past month had knocked out five of an estimated 11 vessels in the fleet.

Some Gulf oil and shipping executives were concerned that Iran might react by striking harder and less selectively at shipping serving Arab ports in the Gulf — making it harder to export crude and products. "The Iranians will pick a few tankers in the Gulf in the next day or two," one predicted.

Iran's airborne capabilities are limited due to difficulties of getting military supplies, but it has shown itself able to mount sudden attacks, having hit at least three tankers in the past eight days.

Most Iranian business is already insured by the Iranian government, rather than the London insurance market, but Gulf sources said the Sirri attack was likely to raise the cost to Iran of running its shuttle fleet.

Tankers from outside which do venture to Sirri might also insist on better rates. "Freight rates will go up, and crew bonuses will go up as well," one operations manager said.

In London, leading underwriters at Lloyd's are almost certain to make a sharp increase in insurance rates for tankers in the Gulf following Tuesday's Iraqi raid on Sirri and recent Iranian attacks on shipping in the southern Gulf, brokers and underwriters said.

Sources at a leading war risk brokers said they expected to be informed by underwriters of an increase of at least 100 per cent in additional premiums for tankers in the Gulf.

Although rates for Kharg Island and the northern Gulf have hardened in recent months, the expected rise would be the first for many months in premiums for the southern Gulf.

Underwriters who specialise in war risk said there was much broader consensus now on the need for higher rates than there had been in May, when an unsuccessful attempt was made to agree on a 50 per cent rise in the basic rate for the southern Gulf.

The standard additional premium for Gulf ports in countries other than Iran and Iraq is currently 0.25 per cent of insured bill value for 14 days. For Iran's Sirri and Larak islands it is 0.25 per cent for seven days, and for Bandar Abbas in Iran it is 0.10 per cent for 14 days.

U.S. Jewish leaders praise Bush for Mideast visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Jewish leaders gave Vice President George Bush high marks Tuesday for his recent Middle East trip after receiving assurances that President Ronald Reagan's administration was still with them on crucial issues.

On two such issues, representatives of Jewish groups who met privately with Mr. Bush said they were heartened by his statements supporting Soviet Jews and rejecting the idea of a separate Palestinian state in the Middle East.

His views on a Palestinian state, "while a restatement of American policy, were particularly gratifying

after his meeting with the leaders of two Arab states that are contiguous to the state of Israel," said Morris B. Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Mr. Bush returned last Wednesday from a 10-day trip in which he visited leaders in Egypt and Jordan as well as Israel.

Abram said Mr. Bush also assured the group of about 100 Jewish leaders that the Reagan administration remained vitally interested in "the plight of Soviet Jewry" — a reference to Soviet Jews denied visas to emigrate to

Israel. Mr. Bush, said Abram, described Mr. Reagan as "determined to make this a fundamental point in all negotiations with the Soviet Union" and intending to bring it up at the expected summit between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Abram said although there have been recent reports that U.S. Jewish organisations have become less than pleased with the Reagan administration's Middle East views, he has seen no indication that it is true. He said Mr. Bush "was extremely well received" by those lines.

One issue on which Mr. Bush and the Jewish group, in Mr. Bush's words, "agreed to disagree," was U.S. arms sales to Jordan, Abram said, Israel and many of its supporters in the U.S. oppose the idea of such sales, but Mr. Bush contended military sales would be "one way to bring Jordan into the peace process" in the Middle East, Abram said.

Still, he added, Mr. Bush conceded there is little chance Congress would approve such sales and said there is no administration timetable for submitting a new request along those lines.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
17:00	Koran
17:30	Cartoons
17:40	Flash
18:10	The Nightingale
18:30	Programme review
19:30	Religious programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	News programme
20:50	Contests programme
22:00	Arabic Play
22:30	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Play continued
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Musique en tete
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties from Jewish Festival
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Sport Magazine
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Carol Bennett and Friends
21:10	Line Street
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: Frances
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM	
and partly on 95.60 KHz, SW	
Tel: 774111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Morning Show
11:00	News Summary
11:30	Talking about Music
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Country Music
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	News Summary
17:00	Old Favorites
17:30	Yes Minister
18:00	Pop Session
18:30	News Summary
19:00	Special Feature
19:30	English News & Features
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WHAT'S GOING ON

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ARRIVALS

09:15 _____ Amman (RJ)
10:30 _____ Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 _____ Jeddah (RJ)

15:00 _____ Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:15 _____ Kuwait (KU)
15:45 _____ Riyadh (SA)
17:50 _____ Sana'a (LH)
20:00 _____ Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 _____ Kuwait (RJ)
21:15 _____ Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 _____ Bahrain, Doha (GF)
21:30 _____ Damascus (RJ)
21:30 _____ Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:00 _____ Muscat (RJ)
22:15 _____ Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:00 _____ Bangkok (RJ)
01:15 _____ Cairo (RJ)
02:15 _____ London (BA)

MANAGEMENT TRAVEL

Abortion — a medical, religious and emotional issue

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Abortion has been a controversial issue around the world for the past several years and has become legalised in many countries. Despite the fact it is considered a criminal act in Jordan, abortions are performed everyday in certain private hospitals, according to a nurse who has assisted in such operations.

An abortion is when the baby is lost before the first twenty weeks of pregnancy. According to Dr. Aref Zalaito, gynaecologist and president of the Jordan Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, an (induced) abortion is performed by a doctor in two cases: When it is medically indicated that the mother is sick (with German measles, hepatitis, hypertension, etc.), or when there are abnormalities in the baby and when the parents demand it of the doctor for social reasons.

Dr. Zalaito told the Jordan Times that abortions can be done easier in the first trimester (three months) of pregnancy, but become more difficult and dangerous after this time. He said: "Abortions are usually performed when the mother is under anaesthesia, the cervix is dilated, and the fetus is removed by scraping and/or vacuuming the uterus." He went on to say that abortions may be simple or complicated, depending on the dexterity of the person performing the operation and on the woman's medical condition. "A possible complication resulting from a careless abortion is perforation of the uterus, that is, the tearing of the uterus which can cause damage to the bowels and intestine and can cause infections and the possible death of the mother. Septic abortions are well-known if the procedure is done in an unhealthy place," he continued.

Physical, mental effects

Another physical effect the mother can face is the difficulty of becoming pregnant again if infection occurred in the uterus, tubes, or ovaries. According to the doctor, she may also face repeated loss of pregnancies; she may reach four months of pregnancy, but will miscarry due to an incompetent cervix, caused by difficult dilation during the abortion. The mother may also have psychological repercussions after the abortion. Dr. Zalaito said: "In the United States, studies show that 25 per cent of the mothers who abort their babies have bad psychological effects of repeated guilt feelings."

Dr. Zalaito is completely against the idea of abortion, for several reasons. Firstly, he

strongly believes that performing an abortion is literally killing human life. He said: "I see babies in their mothers' wombs everyday on the ultrasound monitor, their arms, legs moving, their heart beating as early as the seventh week of pregnancy. In the future we will be able to detect this life earlier with the help of advancing technology. I cannot just suck them out after seeing them. Besides, an eight week fetus actually feels pain. The idea is too much."

Morally speaking, the doctor said that it is killing someone completely helpless and that this is not fair. "I'm a doctor. I save lives not take them. Many women come to me for an abortion and sometimes they change their minds after seeing their babies on the ultrasound monitor. I usually say to a mother, 'How would you feel if I killed your three-year-old child?' It's the same thing."

This particular doctor will not perform an abortion even if the parents think it necessary, such as in case of poor families with many children. Dr. Zalaito does not think this is a valid reason and said that abortion should not be used as contraception. He said: "In the Koran it says, 'Do not kill your children because of expected poverty — God will provide for you and them.' And I really believe that because I see it all the time. No baby in Jordan starves to death."

Asked whether he would perform an abortion on an unmarried mother, he replied that there should be no cases of unmarried mothers, but that if a single girl does conceive, then the doctors should be stricter about abortions and that it must not be legalised. "In some states in the U.S., abortions are allowed even on 12-year-old children. In our society we should keep our standards and morals alive. If abortion is allowed, then we cannot prevent the horrible consequences," he concluded.

The penalties

Induced abortions for no medical reason is a crime in Jordan, according to Mr. Majed Ghanmah, the criminal court inspector at the Ministry of Justice. He told the Jordan Times that the punishments vary according to the persons involved and the situation. He outlined the usual penalties: "Every woman who has an abortion, even if she is forced by her husband, is sentenced to between six months and three years imprisonment; the person who performs it receives a one to three year sentence and the withdrawal of his/her licence. If a husband forces his wife to have an abortion, he is sentenced to between three and ten years; if the mother dies during the abortion, the person performing it will

receive at least ten years imprisonment. However, if an unmarried woman aborts to save her honour, she is sentenced for only one month, and the same goes for her father or brother who forces her to have the abortion." Mr. Ghanmah said that there are very few cases of abortion in the country because it is all done secretly. Unless there is a law suit against a doctor or a husband, the authorities do not learn about such cases, he added.

Islamic viewpoints

The Kingdom's General Mufti Iziddin Al Khatib told the Jordan Times about the Islamic Shari'a laws concerning abortion: "Unless the pregnancy is not threatening the mother's life 100 per cent, the abortion at any time during pregnancy is murder. If the woman was raped, she is still not allowed to abort; she must deliver the baby, raise it, and the baby will carry her maiden name, he said. The mufti said there is another point of view held by other religious personalities. A woman can have an abortion any time before four months, because the Prophet Mohammad once said that at four months of pregnancy, the soul enters the conceived baby. So, stopping a pregnancy before 120 days would not be killing a soul. Sheikh Khatib, however, holds the first point of view."

Despite the Islamic Shari'a and the criminal laws concerning abortion in the country, Dilatation and Curettage (D and C) is performed daily in private hospitals. The Jordan Times spoke to a nurse, who preferred anonymity and who assists doctors in such operations. She said that women, some married and some not, mostly register as appendicitis patients. She said that most of the doctors perform a D and C on the unmarried women to save her from being killed by her family and on married women for commercial reasons. And she said that the doctors are not questioned by the hospital's owners. The nurse said she did not mind assisting unmarried women, but was not able to say "no" to assisting the married ones because she may have been fired since she does not have any protection from the hospital, it would be the doctor's word against hers, she said.

Case histories

The nurse talked about one particular case she remembered: "An unmarried woman who was six months pregnant came to the hospital for an abortion. The anaesthetist was a very religious man, but he helped anyway. The doctor asked me to assist and I wanted to save the mother's life because I knew her family would

kill her. She was a very ignorant woman who was promised marriage by her boyfriend who later left her. She probably didn't even know she was pregnant until the sixth month. Anyway, I was afraid she would get killed."

The nurse said she did not feel guilty for assisting in that particular case because she felt as if she had helped in saving the woman's life. She said that girls in the poorer areas should be taught and made aware of sexual realities in order to prevent such unwanted pregnancies.

One woman, who is now divorced with two children, was forced to have an abortion by her husband when she was 20 years old. She already had one child at the time and her husband indirectly threatened to divorce her if she did not get rid of the second pregnancy. She said: "I was young and ignorant to listen to him, especially since I really wanted to keep that baby. And it was horrible after the abortion. I was severely depressed for so many months after it, and felt so guilty for killing the baby. After fifteen years, I still feel terrible when I think of it. I gave birth to another baby a few years later, and he died after several hours. I thought that God was punishing me for the abortion."

After the woman had a second child, her husband forced her to have her fallopian tubes tied so that she could not get pregnant again — then he divorced her.

Another woman, who is now happily married, though still childless told her story to the Jordan Times. Several years ago, she was forced to have an abortion because her fiancé changed his mind about marrying her. She did not have the abortion in Jordan, but in England. "I had to have an abortion because it is impossible to have an illegitimate child in an Arab country, where I would become an outcast and the child would suffer from my mistake. I entered a very strange hospital in London, and the doctor tried to talk me out of the abortion since I was in my fifth month. He told me I probably wouldn't be able to have any more children, and warned me of the dangers. I didn't care."

She said she was under anaesthesia when the doctor performed the D and C and woke up to find blood everywhere. The she saw there were about forty other women in the same ward, with only the curtains to separate them from each other. They were all crying. She spoke to all of them and heard their stories. But she said the strongest feeling she had was not of guilt, but of loneliness. "All the women's boyfriends came to visit them, talked to them, held their hands, and comforted them. But I was the only one alone. It was the worst feeling I've ever had."

Change in status of Ports Corporation under study

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Rajai Dajani Wednesday said that the concerned authorities are considering changing the status of the Ports Corporation into that of a private sector institution provided that the government maintains a supervisory role in the new corporation.

The change in status is still under discussion by competent experts and the final assessment will be disclosed in due course. Mr. Dajani told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, during a visit he made to the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSL). During his visit, the minister toured the company and was briefed on its activities. The minister also held talks with the company's director general Yasser Al Tai who detailed the company's future plans and its policies.

Established in 1967, the JNSL started operations with one line between Aqaba and the ports of northern Europe. In that year, the company purchased two vessels — Mu'ta and Bader. In later stages the company rent several more vessels to meet the growing demand for maritime transportation to handle Jordan's imports and to ship exports such as phosphates, potash and fertilisers.

In his interview with Petra, Mr. Dajani emphasised that the JNSL is enjoying a stable financial situation despite the prevailing international economic recession.

In 1985, the company shipped goods worth JD 5,700,000. Mr. Dajani said adding that the JNSL has also expanded its maritime shipping transactions by setting up new subsidiaries dealing with freight and shipping.

Commenting on the Aqaba-Nuweib' sea link, opened in April 1985, the minister said the line has been "quite a success." The number of passengers increased from 300,000 last year to 460,000 passengers from the beginning of 1986 until the end of July. The number of vehicles and trucks also registered an increase over that of the previous year.

The company, according to the minister, is planning to open similar sea links between Aqaba and ports in Spain, Italy and France and the lines will be operational as of next month.

Tlas: Syria ready to fight Israel

(Continued from page 1)

wanted to discuss terrorism and was told that Damascus "has nothing to do with that subject."

Mr. Tlas said "I can never respect Bush even if he were the president of the United States after I saw pictures of him kneeling and weeping in front of the Walling Wall in occupied Jerusalem."

He said that visits by U.S. officials to the Middle East "no longer carry credibility because they are all bound to Israel."

"We cannot consider a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through American or Israeli eyes. The U.S. administration only implements Israeli policy and wishes, and Israel will not accept peace with the Arabs unless they went to it on their knees," said Mr. Tlas.

"The (Arab-Israeli) conflict will not be settled except through military confrontation with Israel," he added.

Praising relations between his country and France, Mr. Tlas reiterated pledges by the Syrian leadership to help free the French captives who are among the group of hostages held by the extremist Islamic Jihad organisation in Lebanon.

The defence minister said his

Uncertain future for proposed cancer centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preparations to establish the JD 8 million Al Amal centre for the treatment of cancer are still continuing despite questions about the project's viability, Chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib said Wednesday.

However, the proposed centre is awaiting a final verdict from the Higher Health Council on whether or not the planned scheme should go ahead, said Dr. Khatib, who also is member of the national task force for the centre's establishment.

Dr. Khatib made his comments in response to a statement issued by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh on Sunday when the minister said that the health authorities in Jordan had not yet decided to go ahead with the establishment of a cancer treatment centre at the University of Jordan.

The idea for the centre was first launched by GUVS on April 1, 1984, and the scheme was officially approved by the Prime Ministry and the Ministries of Planning, Health and Social Development. GUVS established a national working team to draw up plans for the centre and to coordinate with the University of Jordan which provided a plot of land for the centre and included the project in its 1986-1990 development plan.

A GUVS booklet on the centre's main objectives says it will provide comprehensive cancer treatment for patients through diagnosis and it will also offer moral and financial support to cancer victims.

The Ministry of Health has been treating cancer patients at the government-run Al Bashir Hospital and a difference in opinion over the need for the Amal centre arose when Dr. Hamzeh said that Jordan has no need for a new centre for cancer treatment but that the quality and services offered to cancer patients should be upgraded.

Dr. Hamzeh said that Al Bashir Hospital has been offering radiotherapy treatment to cancer patients for more than 25 years using a cobalt gamma-ray machine. The hospital recently installed another gamma-ray machine and is expected to accommodate the country's first-ever linear accelerator machine in the near future.

Al Bashir Hospital only offers radiotherapy treatment, while

other hospitals, chiefly the University of Jordan Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre provide chemotherapy as well as surgery and rehabilitation to cancer patients.

In the meantime, GUVS has collected JD 750,000 through its two-knock at the door campaigns, from individual donations and through its welfare lottery. The amount has been given to the University of Jordan to launch the JD 1 million first phase of the project to build a specialised clinic to supervise patients' treatment. The centre envisages a three-stage phase to be completed in 1990 at the cost of JD 8 million.

Tell es Sai'idieh takes its secrets to British Museum

LONDON (LPS) — An exhibition showing the results of excavations at a man-made tell (mound) northwest of Amman is capturing the imagination of visitors to the British Museum this summer.

The display of finds at the Tell es Sai'idieh in the Jordan Valley shows what a team, led by Jonathan Tubb of the museum's Western Asiatic Department, has found from several strata of settlement on the same site. The time span covered is from an Early Bronze Age occupation of 4500 years ago to the Sixth Century B.C., when the site had become a centre of the Bronze smelting industry.

The result of the museum digs over the past two years is the continuation of a study begun over 20 years ago by the University of Pennsylvania. The study has been carried out with the cooperation of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and is due to continue for another five seasons, beginning in March 1987.

Fragments recovered from three millennia of occupation show that after the Early Bronze Age occupation, the site by the 13th Century B.C. had become the home of a people who lived behind massive stone walls and buried their dead on a lower mound. Photographs of skeletons show how children were buried in jars and one adult has a bronze

Dr. Khatib said that under an agreement between GUVS and the University of Jordan concerning financial contributions, the former has the right to hold all financial allocations if the centre is not established. Dr. Khatib promised that if the centre does not go ahead, all contributions will be returned to donors, while money raised from the knock at the door campaign will be at the public's disposal.

Number of cancer patients

At present there is no official information on the number of cancer patients in Jordan. Dr. Hamzeh says that the Al Bashir Hospital offered radiotherapy treatment to 1,998 cases out of 2,357 cancer patients between 1980 and 1986.

Dr. Khatib, basing his information on the United Nations World Health Organisation, believes there are around 8,500 cancer patients in Jordan.

bowl clenched between its teeth, for unknown symbolic reasons.

Then these unknown people, who used domestic animals and husbanded crops, suffered a violent fire. Charred remains date this to the mid-12th Century B.C. After a further century of apparent disuse, the tell became an industrial site for weaving and bronze smelting, and could have been the biblical centre of Zarethan, described in the Book of Kings as a site for manufacturing bronze fittings for Solomon's temple.

Who were the 13th Century people who had their own city destroyed by some calamity, natural or man made? The exhibition suggests that they were not Philistines, who settled on the coast of Canaan, but were from a group known as the "sea peoples," possibly the Sherden, who served as mercenaries in the Egyptian army of Ramses II.

In the forthcoming five seasons extending beyond 1990, the team led by Mr. Tubb hopes to find more tangible clues to this historical jigsaw puzzle.

There may also be more to learn about the Bronze Age people of around 2800 B.C. who have left only a few items of bronze and pottery and what appears to be a shrine.

The exhibition, which opened in London this month, continues until early September.

'Jordan is not bound by U.S. embargo on Libya'

(Continued from page 1)

an authentic bill of sale and an air worthiness certificate issued by the British Civil Aviation Authority.

"After the plane's landing here," Mr. Dajani said, "the British authorities said they were deceived. So, the British civil aviation revoked and cancelled the air worthiness certificate and asked the Jordanian government to impound the plane until the dispute is resolved in court."

Mr. Dajani said the British Caledonian company filed a lawsuit at the Jordanian court of first instance and asked it to keep the plane impounded.

The court asked British Caledonian to provide a bank guarantee and documents proving that the sale was illegal under British law, as well as proof that the law allows for break of the contract.

"British Caledonian failed to provide any of the three court requirements and the court was unable to order continued impoundment," Mr. Dajani explained.

The British airline then filed lawsuits against the court of first instance, the attorney general and

the Civil Aviation Authority and demanded that the plane remain impounded until its return to its legal owners to be proven after the lawsuit.

In return, the Libyan Airlines filed another lawsuit demanding a permission for the plane's departure.

"The Libyan Airline provided the court with an open bank guarantee, documents proving its ownership of the plane and an offer from British Caledonian for the sale of other planes to the Libyan Airline, as well as the air worthiness certificate," Mr. Dajani said, adding that Libyan Airlines also demanded from the Jordanian authorities the payment of JD 10,000 a day in damages plus losses incurred by the grounding of the aircraft.

"After the passage of 40 days and the British company's failure to show evidence proving its ownership of the plane, we considered Libyan Airlines as the owner, it having provided all legal requirements," Mr. Dajani said.

The minister said that by continuing its impoundment of the plane, Jordan would have been "in violation of international law and the Chicago Convention of

1944."

"Furthermore," he added, "we allowed ample time for legal action by any party to prove the ownership of the plane. When the British failed to produce the proof, we had to release the plane."

The minister said the Libyan Airline dropped the charges against the Jordanian authorities following a green light for the departure of the plane.

The Airbus was piloted by a German crew when it landed at the airport. It was flown to Tripoli

King returns from UAE

(Continued from page 1)

King and Sheikh Zayed attending a folkloric dance and the UAE president, wielding a traditional sword, dancing alongside the troupe.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were guests of honour at a luncheon hosted on Wednesday by Crown Prince Khalifa Ibn Zayed of Abu Dhabi, one of the seven emirates federated in the UAE.

Also on Wednesday, the King and Sheikh Zayed toured the city

by an Algerian crew recruited for the mission.

A British Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters earlier this week that "the Jordanian government is blameless. It is understandable why they let the aircraft go. They had no legal power to stop the plane."


British Caledonian said last month that it had begun legal proceedings to block the planned resale to Libya of two airbuses which it had originally sold to a Hong Kong aircraft trading firm.

of Al Ain. Streets of the city were bedecked with Jordanian and UAE flags and citizens cheered the motorcade of the two leaders.

Upon arrival here, the King sent a cable to Sheikh Zayed expressing thanks for the welcome and hospitality accorded to him during the UAE visit.

"We share identical views regarding our causes and our nation's aspirations," the cable said.

The defence minister said his



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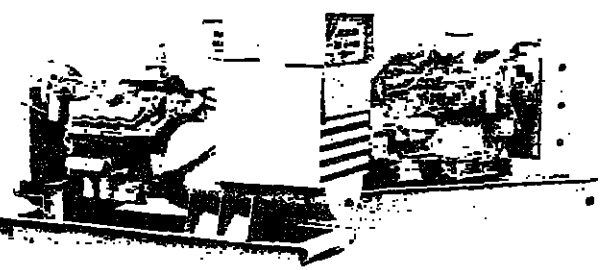
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White-collar robots go to work

Some companies are introducing computers which, with the back-up of acquired knowledge, can make "human" decisions. Artificial intelligence is here, says Louise Kahoe.

SAN FRANCISCO — Credit authorisers of travel-related services at American Express in the U.S. have a new "assistant," a computer system which embodies the expertise of five of the company's most senior authorisers. This so-called "expert system" is one of the first commercial applications of artificial intelligence (AI) and marks the entry of AI into mainstream business computing.

With over 300 of the largest companies in the U.S. already looking into the potential of artificial intelligence, and at least 100 working in the field, expert systems are poised to make an important transition from the laboratory into the workplace.

The commercialisation of expert systems is overdue. Hundreds of expert systems have been created over recent years, but the vast majority are either research projects or at best commercial prototypes. Now, expert systems developers are beginning to overcome the technical barriers to making expert systems work in the "real" worlds of business, finance and government.

As programmes which make computers appear to think, reason, and use human-like judgment, expert systems represent a revolutionary new branch of computer technology. Also dubbed "white collar robots" they can automate jobs which require considerable knowledge and human judgment. Expert systems have been designed to diagnose disease, to provide financial advice, analyse chemicals, predict earthquakes, interpret weather data and edit newspapers. Their potential seems limitless. Wherever human experts make repetitive decisions based upon knowledge and experience it is possible, at least in theory, to capture that expertise in a computer programme.

In practice, however, commercial applications of expert systems are generally less ambitious. Companies are taking a cautious approach to the new technology. At American Express, for example, the credit

authorisation system was first prototyped to prove its feasibility and is now running in a pilot project mode providing decision support to about 10 of the company's 300 authorisers. Whereas the system is capable of making credit decisions alone, American Express chooses to use it only in a back-up mode, because of a long-standing corporate policy which assures cardholders that they will not be denied credit by a computer.

Similarly at Travellers Insurance, a large U.S. insurance underwriter, although there are lots of potential applications of expert systems under study, the first and only working system is a relatively simple personal computer-based programme which diagnoses computer problems in the company's distributed computer network.

Although the results of expert system research have proven conclusively that the technology works, "vendors of expert systems still have to demonstrate that AI technology can yield real economic benefits," acknowledges Alex Jacobson, president of Inference Corporation, one of the four leading U.S. expert system development tool companies.

Some companies have, however, already been persuaded. Northrop Corporation, the aircraft builder, is about to begin operational use of a system which automates the time-consuming process of "process planning" for the production of sheet metal parts. It normally takes eight to 12 hours for a process planner to figure out the sequence of machine tool processes needed to make any one of the thousands of small sheet metal parts needed to build an aircraft. Given detailed description of the geometry of the part, the computerised expert system can do the same job in just 15 minutes.

The companies which provide system development tools can between them list a dozen or so "working" expert systems, but it will take 10 or 20 times as many examples to persuade most people that expert systems are really useful, Jacobson believes.



"You have to be patient in this business," he states. His seven-year-old company began selling its expert systems building tools to commercial users 18 months ago but only a handful of Inference's customers have so far put expert systems into operational use.

Part of the problem is that expert systems are so very different from conventional computer software. An expert system comprises two major parts: a "knowledge base" and an "inference engine."

The knowledge base contains all the available information relating to a particular application — the symptoms of a blood disease, or the credit histories of a group of individuals, for example. The knowledge base is programmed with information obtained from experts and text books in a given field.

The inference engine contains a set of "rules" which should be applied to the knowledge base in order to reach a conclusion. These rules are a computer programmer's attempt to define, in computer language, the thought processes which a human expert applies to the same problem.

When a question is asked of the computer "expert" it searches through its knowledge base, applying rules in a "what if/then" type procedure until it comes up with an answer.

The process of developing an expert system involves "extracting" knowledge from

human experts and coding it into computer language. A "knowledge engineer" — part psychologist, part computer programmer — interviews the human to find out how he developed and uses his expertise. A major problem is that most experts are rarely in situations where they have to vocalise the various aspects of their job. But according to those who work in this field, most of their subjects become enthused about the process and are cooperative.

Most expert systems programmes are custom designed by or for an individual company or user. There are already, however, a few standard applications which have a more general appeal. Examples include financial planning programmes such as the "financial advisor" from Palladian and "planpower" from Applied Expert Systems. Both programmes are designed to support certified financial planners who assist companies and individuals with their investments.

Custom-designed programmes will probably continue to represent the largest portion of the business, Jacobson believes. Expert systems typically contain proprietary data and ideas.

A major barrier to the application of expert systems in business has been the problem of integrating them into existing computer systems. "The challenge of implementing the expert system at American Express was not so

much in developing the expert system itself as getting it to work in real time with the conventional computer data base," explains Bob Flast, vice-president of transaction services for the American Express travel-related services company. "Our requirement was for a system that could pick up data from the mainframe and respond during a 90-second phone call."

Linking expert systems to existing computer systems "is probably the single most challenging obstacle to the use of expert systems," says Harvey P. Newquist III of DM Data, a market research firm. He notes that most expert systems are currently developed on special "symbolic" processors using computer languages developed by artificial intelligence researchers, making them largely incompatible with conventional computers.

In a major commitment to bring expert systems into the "mainstream" of business computing, Teknowledge, a leading U.S. expert system development tool company, has translated all of its programmes into a machine-independent language.

This has enabled NCR Corporation, the U.S. computer group, to develop an expert system which runs on its computers simultaneously with conventional software. The system is designed to reduce computer faults and failures. Built into the NCR computers

before they are shipped to customers, the expert system analyses the computer's maintenance log and suggests preventive steps which can be taken to avoid system malfunctions, thus reducing the need for on-site service. "The programme improves the computer system uptime by allowing us to apply our years of field service experience," says Richard B. Reese, vice-president of NCR customer services.

An unavoidable hindrance to companies trying to develop expert systems is the lack of qualified personnel available in the field. Most researchers are either at universities or involved in start-up AI companies. To acquire AI expertise, companies such as Ford Motor, Lockheed, General Motors, Nynex, Procter & Gamble and others have taken equity stakes in emerging expert systems companies.

Despite the barriers to commercialisation, expert systems have made significant progress. The U.S. expert systems market was worth approximately \$75 million last year, up from just \$4 million in 1981, according to a study published recently by DM Data of Scottsdale, Arizona. By the end of the decade the researchers expect annual expert systems sales to total over \$800 billion. No longer just a laboratory curiosity, expert systems are about to become an important trend in business computing — Financial Times feature.

Swedes roll back the sexual revolution — somewhat

By Bengt Ljung
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden, once deemed to be in the vanguard of sexual permissiveness, is trading cohabitation for marriage and free sex for longer-term relationships.

There even are fewer sex clubs, police say, now that live sex shows have been banned.

Permissive attitude still prevails, said Maj Fant, secretary of the government-sponsored National Association for Sexual Information.

But she said Swedes increasingly cherish fidelity and close relationships. She said many were fed up with pornography.

"It's more important to have a long-lasting relationship because the world is so unsafe, with wars and disasters," she said in a telephone interview.

She said some people are concerned about AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — which had killed 35 Swedes as of Aug. 1, according to government statistics.

But, she added, marriage is gaining because "many people want to make a statement that they have strong ties and aren't simply cohabiting, although legally there's not much difference."

Sweden got its reputation as a bastion of free sex in the 1960s, in part with movies like "I Am Curious — Yellow" that featured nudity, and because of Swedes' readiness to accept a relaxation in traditional taboos.

The Association for Sex Information at the time condoned the distribution of pornography and, when contraceptives became widely available, couples living together out of wedlock.

In the early 1980s, about 20 per cent of all couples living together were not married. But in 1985, Swedish figures show, the number of marriages shot up 6 per cent.

In addition, a study by the U.S.-based Alan Guttmacher Institute found that Swedish young people, benefiting from an extensive sex education programme and availability of contraceptives, had 12 per cent fewer abortions in 1985 than in 1980.

But Sweden, according to many analysts, is not about to turn back the clock entirely.

"We have a general consensus on sex and living situations in Sweden," said Social Democrat Monica Andersson, undersecretary of social affairs. "Those groups with stricter views are marginal."

Ms. Fant, 56, said taboos still exist, but mostly among older people who did not benefit from sex education.

The sexual revolution in the 1960s and 1970s was spurred by the ready availability of cheap contraceptives, and many people were shocked when traditional morals were discarded.

"Sweden was regarded a bit like Sodom and Gomorrah with free sex and easy girls," Fant says.

Even the Lutheran Swedish state church, which claims 94 per cent of the country's citizens as members, has changed its views.

It now supports sex education in schools and accepts abortion in certain cases, such as rape or when the mother's life would be endangered.

"We've been negative to the law from 1975 of completely free abortions, when the women make the decision for three people — herself, the man and the child," said Olof Igerius, assistant to the Archbishop of Sweden.

Meanwhile, some Swedes are taking a stand against the spread of pornography — but they are doing it by offering erotic art in its place.

A group of women in the province of Smaland, the Bible-belt of central Sweden, are waging war on pornography with an exhibition of erotic art. The Vaxjo Action Group Against Pornography, VAMP, enlisted the municipality to fund the exhibit.

"People have need for sexual pictures, and it should be filled with something better than pornography," said VAMP spokesman Margareta Niklasson.

"It's difficult to make definitions, but erotic art asserts sensuality and a feeling of affinity with your partner as a human being," the 35-year-old Ms. Niklasson said.

Back in 1970, when pornography was legalised, Ms. Fant said Swedes were idealistic and didn't realise the dark side.

"Porno leads to an anti-human society because it destroys relationships by distorting the view of the opposite sex. Porno is the theory and rape is the practice," she said.

Despite progress, problems remain. Rape and prostitution are far from being stamped out, but sex clubs have almost completely vanished since live sex shows were banned, said Stockholm police inspector Torsten Englund.

Meanwhile, the drive for sensitive and informed attitudes towards sex continues. VAMP's exhibition is a success and has been extended so schools can make field trips to it.

New York fashion publisher — a power in the rag trade

By Barbara Bright
Reuter

PARIS — Elegance is passe, fantasy "in," Pierre Cardin a mere businessman, the American fashion industry dying and Italy the maker of all good clothes — the current commandments of fashion according to John Fairchild.

Not familiar with John Fairchild? The fashion world is — they exult, or tremble, at his every word.

As publisher of Women's Wear Daily (WWD), the fashion "Bible" for the U.S. retailer, W., a fortnightly fashion and lifestyle publication, and M, a men's fashion monthly, Fairchild is behind-the-scenes arbiter of what much of the world wears.

European advertisers spend more than \$8.7 million yearly in WWD, W and M, seeking to influence the "rag trade" as the U.S. fashion industry is called.

WWD has a circulation of 79,000 (3,000 in Europe), W goes to 221,000 readers (3,100 in Europe), and M to 134,000 (4,200 in Europe).

Japanese editions of WWD and W were started last year, and supplements are issued twice-yearly for ready-to-wear collections in France, West Germany and Italy.

Last year Fairchild was given one of French couture's first "Oscars" for his contribution to fashion worldwide. The award was sponsored by the French federation of ready-to-wear

fashion designers and creators. "He's the Cesare Borgia of the fashion world, and he knows it," an Italian, who requested anonymity, told the American magazine Vanity Fair, which recently profiled Fairchild.

Fairchild, 59, smiling, white-haired, always in the front row at the fashion collections, defends his work against those who consider it frivolous.

"I think basically the idea that people look the way they want to look is one of the important joys left in life," he told Reuters in a recent interview at his Paris office.

"I love that we're writing about something that is pleasant. Like the sun coming up in the morning, and not the setting sun."

Fairchild includes heat and fire along with the sunny outlook. He doesn't mince words about his likes and dislikes.

"We try to inform people," he said. "We ask the opinions of a lot of people, not just our opinion — society ladies, the people who buy the clothes, the store presidents, the buyers, other members of the press."

His list of the world's top designers, which he said was in no particular order, includes Italians Giorgio Armani and Valentino, Yves Saint Laurent, Claude Montana, Christian Lacroix, Thierry Mugler, Emanuel Ungaro, Jean-Paul Gaultier and German-born Karl Lagerfeld of France, and Donna Karan of the United States, the only woman he included.

Currently, Fairchild considers

the word elegant "really passe... We're not living in an elegant age so why do clothes have to be elegant?"

According to Fairchild, "The most important collection in Paris is the Patou collection of Christian Lacroix," which showed bright colours, tweed suits embroidered with jewels, and short dance dresses worn by grey-haired models.

"It's not what Patou made that is so interesting, but what he said to the world is... 'Look, fashion should be amusing and a bit mad, that woman have a desire to do something with a lot of fantasy. Instead of wearing the conventional, dumb elegant clothes.'"

The American publisher disputes the idea that any nationality has a stranglehold on creativity.

"The idea that fashion starts in Paris or it starts in New York or in Italy is to me absolutely not an intelligent question. It's not nationality, it's the creative ability of a designer to establish a look, to make something go," he said.

The Japanese influence, however, he dismisses as "dead as a doornail now." He also speaks disdainfully of England. "I don't think England has ever established itself as a fashion market because they've no idea of workmanship or follow-through."

Asked about the Soviet Union or China, where designer Pierre Cardin has licensed factories to produce his clothes, Fairchild huffed: "I don't consider Cardin a

designer. Cardin's a businessman. He revolutionised the men's industry and that's the last we heard from him. Somebody's a designer who does something and everybody copies it."

He believes the nation most important to fashion now is Italy. "Today the Italians are the best manufacturers of quality clothes in the world. For a lot of reasons — all the fabrics are there and they work harder than anybody else," he said.

Bemoaning the fact that fashion manufacturing is dying in his country, Fairchild blames it on the textile industry's lack of vision. He says that in the collections of major American designers "there's not one yard of American fabric. The people who make fabrics didn't realise the word fashion existed. They never thought American women were going to drop..."

He searched for the word, as if he hated the thought "... double-knit."

Fairchild, whose grandfather started the publishing empire that now has 30-plus titles, said he became aware of fashion when he spent a summer working at the company office in Paris.

"The head of the office didn't like to spend money so my main job was being his waiter at night at his house," he said.

In typically sharp-tongued fashion, Fairchild continued the tale by adding that he learned to make "a terrific Martini... I hated my boss and used to make them as strong as possible hoping it would kill him off."

Show girl revues making comeback in clubs, on ships

By Matt Spetelnick
Reuter

MIAMI — From night clubs and cruise ships to dancing halls and theatres, leggy show girls — once a staple of American entertainment — are staging a dramatic comeback.

"Show girl productions haven't been in such high demand in years. It's almost like the old days all over again," said Leonard Miller, 52, one of the most prolific, big-time producers of revue shows.

Although the high-kicking, scantily-clad dancers are normally associated with Las Vegas casinos, and New York's Radio City Music Hall, Miller and a growing number of revue producers are bringing them back into the mainstream of American entertainment.

Show business backwaters like Miami beach, Atlanta and San Juan, Puerto Rico, are coming alive with gaudy stage productions that combine shapely legs, gaudy

costumes, nostalgic song and burlesque humour. With its sprawling cruise ship port — the busiest in the world — Miami has become a new hotbed of revue-style entertainment.

In recent years, many of the 25 stately pleasure craft that steam out of Miami headed for Caribbean resorts have begun staging elaborate show girl productions on board.

"Everybody is excited about revues again. They really fit in with the atmosphere of a luxury liner," Miller said in a recent interview on the elaborately-festooned stage of a Miami-based cruise ship.

Miller, a retired minor-league baseball player, and his partner George Reich, a former Parisian choreographer, currently have nine revues in production and two more shows in rehearsal in the United States and the Caribbean.

It was back in the 1960s that show girl extravaganzas last enjoyed the kind of popularity they are experiencing nowadays in

the United States, producers say. But there are differences in the latest show girl craze, Miller said as he looked over a group of dancers arriving for rehearsal clad in ragged sweat shirts and jogging shoes.

"Back then, a show girl was a real presence," he said. "She looked good on stage and off. Appearance was always important. Now no one seems to care about off-stage glamour."

Besides the casual style of off-stage dress, the performers themselves are a different breed from those of 20 years ago, producers say.

"Now we predominantly bring in British dancers for the cruise ship trade," Miller said. "They come by the dozens."

Miller said most of the British performers, ranging in age from 18 to 30, work for less pay and are more dedicated to their art than American dancers.

The changing economics of show business is another reason for hiring foreign dancers, Miller

explained. "We don't get many American dancers from closed shows in Las Vegas and Reno the way we used to," he said. "The cost of those productions is so astronomical now that shows that used to run for two or three years are running seven to 10 years."

Nevertheless, all the show girls Miller hires seem to share the same dream — to be plucked out of the chorus line by a big Hollywood moviemaker and turned into a star.

"Sometimes you feel kind of silly hopping around up there with hardly anything on but feathers," said a 22-year-old show girl from London.

Most of the dancers say they work long hours for skimpy wages, follow strict diets and enjoy little job security.

"You keep changing dancers as a rule," Miller said. "The problem is that the longer a dancer stays with you, the more apt she is to become either too complacent or too old."

Randa Habibi's

Happy Eid

MY editor called me and said: "Randa, why don't you write a positive corner on the occasion of the Eid." So I am. After all the Eid is a time for a truce. People will enjoy five whole days of holiday, and for those who are not going to Spain or the Greek islands, they had better start planning how to spend their leave.

Tourism inside Jordan is the best solution for those who do not wish to spend five days in the swimming pools of Amman or visiting friends and relatives.

One does not have to go very far to visit nice places. I noticed that very few Jordanians go to Iraq Al Amir, though it is less than 40 minutes from Amman; or Abel Al Kabeh, an interesting place only 30 kilometres from Amman. For longer journeys, one can visit Al Rabad castle in Ajloun, the desert castles in Azrak, or even Wadi Rum and Petra (if one can endure the heat).

Madaba and the Dead Sea are worth seeing more than once and the pools at Jerash are still not very widely known. As amenities are not always available at these touristic places, it gives the family the occasion to plan for a picnic together combined with an interesting archaeological visit.

So, enjoy your holidays and have a very Happy Eid.

JTV channel 2 preview

Saturday Aug. 16, 1986

8:30 That's My Boy

9:10 The Lancaster — Miller Affair

A six-part mini-series based on the true story of Jessica "Chubbie" Miller, who left Australia in the twenties seeking a challenging new life in London. She found this in Bill Lancaster and the ex-RAF pilot's dream to be the first to fly from Britain to Australia.

10:20 Feature Film

Borsalino

Starring: Alain Delon

Jean-Paul Belmondo

In the thirties two Marseilles gangsters become friends and join forces.

Sunday Aug. 17, 1986

8:30 Charlie and Company

9:10 A Planet For The Taking

Sublime The Earth

The human species see itself as supreme over all other forms of life in a relentless battle for survival. But perhaps peaceful co-existence, not Darwin's "survival of the fittest" is the natural order.

10:20 Dallas

Some Do Some Don't

Monday Aug. 18, 1986

8:30 Growing Pains

After a fistfight with Ben's coach, Jason is left with the task of explaining that fighting is not the way to get the job done, while Maggie endures the hardship of teaching Mike ballroom dancing.

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Feature Film

The Invisible Woman

A mad scientist turns a model invisible. Screwball comedy with a deteriorating star at his hammiest. Generally very laboured, but with some funny moments.

Tuesday Aug. 19, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Alfred Hitchcock

A little child steals her father's gun and loads it. The father starts to chase her to get the gun back!

10:20 The Master

Wednesday Aug. 20, 1986

8:30 Three's Company

Jack's Double Date

9:10 Ripley's Believe it or Not

A prisoner doomed to wear a velvet mask sewn on for life in astounding real events that inspired "The Man in the Iron Mask" fiction classic; diamonds, including the Taylor/Burton Diamond, Hope Diamond and Premiere Rose are examined; unusual birds and the deterioration of man's greatest treasures are presented.

10:20 Sword of Honour

Thursday Aug. 21, 1986

8:30 Carol Burnett and Friends

9:10 Lime Street

10:20 Feature Film

Silence

Starring: Will Greer, Ellen Geer, Richard Kettton

A deaf child "Eric" has become withdrawn from reality since the death of his parents. Barbara and her husband Al are a childless couple who take Eric into their home. They cannot communicate with Eric and decide that a camping trip might present an ideal opportunity for the new family to become better acquainted. And so they travel to the edge of the wilderness where their dream of a closer relationship turns into a nightmare.

Friday Aug. 22, 1986

9:10 Finders of Lost Loves

10:20 Play of The Week

A Kind of Alaska

Paul Scofield and Dorothy Tutin head the new cast in the first television production of Harold Pinter's award-winning stage play "A Kind of Alaska" about a woman who has been suffering from encephalitis lethargica — or as it is more commonly known sleeping sickness.

The Aga Khan commends New York racing board

PARIS (R) — The Aga Khan, whose horse Lashkari and its trainer were ruled innocent of illegal drug use Tuesday, Wednesday commended the New York Racing Board's action but said the damage to racing would not be quickly repaired.

The Aga Khan said in a statement released here that he learned "with great satisfaction" that subsequent testing had overturned initial findings of the drug etorphine in Lashkari on the day of the Breeder's Cup Turf Race last November 2.

"This action by the board is, in large measure, commendable. It is never easy to admit a mistake and less so when it involves an erroneous finding of one of the two American quality assurance laboratories for equine drug testing," the statement said.

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board had frozen the fourth-place purse of \$100,000 in the Breeder's Cup race for nine months after the laboratory at Cornell University issued a report of a positive drug test.

Tuesday's announcement means the purse will go to the owner.

The board had also suspended the licence of Lashkari's trainer, Alain de Royer-Dupre, who was held responsible for the horse's condition. Royer-Dupre has been reinstated.

"Vindication came in spite rather than as a result of the procedures," said the Aga Khan.

"It required eight months of painstaking and expensive parallel investigation, fact-finding and sworn depositions to arrive at today's salutary reversal," he said.

The Aga Khan also called for racing authorities in Europe to intensify efforts to establish "a more thorough, equitable and practicable system of equine drug testing in the Common Market."

"It is a fact that serious errors of a like nature involving analytical mistakes have equally been made in Europe," he said.

The New York Board said it changed the ruling because the state testing laboratory has

reversed its initial finding that the colt raced November 2, 1985, under the influence of the illegal stimulant etorphine.

The announcement by Racing Board Chairman Richard Corbisiero marked the first time in New York racing that a positive drug test has been overturned.

Corbisiero said the board wants to find out how the lab at Cornell University, which does the testing for the New York state racing industry, issued an initial positive report that it later reversed.

"We will meet soon with Cornell officials to review all the facts of this case and assess our entire future relationship with them."

Lashkari was disqualified last November 27 after the Cornell laboratory, which analyses post-race urine samples on the first four finishers in New York races, reported it had found traces of etorphine.

The drug etorphine is widely known as "elephant juice" and is used in large doses to tranquillise circus elephants. When the drug is used in small doses, it becomes a powerful stimulant.

The suspension of Royer-Dupre came last Jan. 16 under state rules holding a trainer responsible for the condition of his horse. Royer-Dupre had expressed bewilderment at the positive-testing of the colt from the start, as had the Aga Khan, a staunch supporter of medication-free race horses.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soviets, U.S. roll in hoops tourney

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union squeezed past Canada 77-76 in the women's world basketball championship Tuesday, while Americans Cheryl Miller and Teresa Edwards led the scoring as the U.S. crushed Australia 76-50. The results left the Soviet Union and the U.S. as the only unbeaten teams in the tournament and virtually ensured they will meet in the final. Bev Smith and Misty Thomas scored 28 and 27 points each as Canada, previously undefeated in the championship, threatened to score an upset victory over a revamped Soviet side that has looked stronger than their Goodwill Games squad.

Aussie wins Coors mountain leg

SQUAW VALLEY, California (AP) — Phil Anderson of Australia, who took an early lead in the mountainous route of the Coors International Bicycle Classic, held on to win the gruelling event Tuesday, finishing the 191.47 kilometre course in less than 5½ hours. Dag-Otto Lauritzen of Norway was overall leader as the California-to-Colorado race finished its fourth day. Anderson took a brisk five-lap criterium in Nevada City, winning a \$500 premium, then maintained his edge, finishing the race in 5:27:38.

Cuba to attend Pan-Am Games

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Cuba, which had threatened to boycott next year's Pan American Games in Indianapolis because it wanted the competition held in Havana, now plans to attend, the president of the Sports Organisation of Central America and the Caribbean said Tuesday. "Everything is resolved," said German Rieckenhoff. "Cuba will be in the Pan American Games and this fills us with joy and satisfaction."

Brest leads French league

PARIS (R) — Brest, inspired by Brazilian World Cup defender Julio Cesar, thrashed Nancy 4-0 on the third day of the French season Tuesday to take over at the top of the First Division.

Julio Cesar, who joined Brest this year from Guarani at an estimated annual salary of \$100,000, set up the opening goal when his 65th-minute free kick was fumbled by Nancy goalkeeper Sylvain Matriciano and Vincent Guerin followed up to score.

Gerard Buscher, taking advantage of a crumbling Nancy defence, netted twice more in the 71st and 74th minutes. Yvon Pouliquen's solo run three minutes from the end made it 4-0.

The win — Brest's second away from home — brought their points tally to five and gave them the league lead on goal difference.

Olympique Marseille beat Toulouse 2-1 despite a powerful performance by the visiting defence which kept entrepreneur Bernard Tapie's star-studded

team at bay for 57 minutes. Marseille finally went ahead when Patrick Cubaynes deftly flicked home after Yugoslav teammate Blaz Siskovic had seen his shot saved.

French World Cup striker Jean-Pierre Papin scored the second 12 minutes later.

Toulouse fought back with a 75th-minute effort by Argentine Alberto Tarantini but Marseille held on to join Brest, Bordeaux, Nantes and Paris Saint-Germain on five points.

Bordeaux beat Racing Club of Paris 2-0 with the midfield of Rene Girard, Philippe Vercruysse, Jean-Marc Ferreri and Yugoslav Zlatko Vujovic proving too much for the Parisian side.

Vujovic opened with a penalty in the 38th minute and Vercruysse made it two in the 56th minute.

Nantes defeated Nice 1-0 thanks to a penalty from Pierre Morice in the 34th minute while last season's champions Paris Saint-Germain lost their 100 per cent unbeaten record after drawing 0-0 with Metz.

Stunned English want Botham

By Robert Woodward
Reuters

LONDON — The cry "bring back Botham" is ringing across England as cricket fans demand the recall of Ian Botham to halt a shattering run of test defeats.

Supporters stunned at Tuesday's loss to New Zealand believe England's only hope of preventing a ninth defeat in 11 tests next week lie with the mercurial 30-year-old.

But England's selectors appear likely to turn a deaf ear to demands for Botham's rehabilitation, preferring to reward less controversial players as they search for the makings of a squad which can retain the Ashes in Australia later this year.

Botha has seen in murderous from since returning from a two-month ban imposed by English cricketing authorities after the Somerset player admitted smoking marijuana.

He belted 104 in 66 balls in his first county championship outing and last Sunday smashed 175 not out, including 13 sixes, off 122 balls in a one-day match.

Such form has convinced many, including former captain Bob Willis, that Botham is the man to bolster England's middle order. It is a year since England took a first innings lead and they hit only 488 runs in two innings in the third test.

Navratilova, Evert Lloyd advance

LOS ANGELES (R) — Top two seeds Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd sailed into the third round of the \$250,000 Los Angeles Women's Tennis Tournament Tuesday with straight set victories.

Navratilova, the number one seed, beat Debbie Spence 6-0 6-1, and Evert Lloyd ousted Elise Burgin 6-4, 6-2 in All-American matches to lead an advance of seeds.

Navratilova sometimes had difficulty motivating herself, but Spence was never going to give the top seed any trouble and Navratilova breezed through in 55 minutes.

"I'm trying to get used to cement again, ready for the U.S. Open," Navratilova said.

"I find it absolutely bewildering Ian was not included in the second test. Most of the batsmen who have played for England this summer are not fit to tie his laces," Willis said.

The selectors are more concerned about Botham's lack of bowling form and they seem set to persevere with Derek Pringle for the third and final test against New Zealand — who lead the series 1-0 — at Oval.

"Ian Botham is something for the selectors and myself to decide. Obviously he is batting well but we just don't know how well he is bowling," said England captain Mike Gatting.

"He has not done a lot of it recently and, if he is going to return, it has to be on the basis that he can be our third seam bowler as well as bat."

Botham, not loathe to blowing his own trumpet, has been strangely quiet about his possible

inclusion — but British newspapers have made the point for him.

"You're Bookers — Shame On You — No Place For Botham" screamed the headlines Wednesday morning as cricket writers indulged in one of their favourite summer pastimes, bashing the selectors.

Many believe the latter are not prepared to forgive Botham for his recent misdemeanours. But the selectors may also be wary of including Botham because of his tendency to overwhelm the rest of the team by sheer force of personality.

David Gower, when captain, found it hard to separate Botham from the ball when the latter was bowling and Gatting, who has yet to find his feet as Gower's successor, may be unwilling to hasten the return of such a potentially disruptive influence.

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole

ACROSS
1 Test group
5 Places of refuge
9 River to North Sea
13 Wing-shaped
14 Lamblike
15 Ireland
16 Fixed charge
17 Dark brown
18 Shift
19 Vaquero's ropes
21 Ale abundantly
22 Yale men
23 Soil
24 Piece of oil
30 Filled by fumes
33 — lunch
34 Fictitious
36 Over: pref.
37 Mil. sch.
38 Ono's state
39 Actor Beauty
40 Numerical prefix
41 Helsinki folk
42 Church parts
44 Church official
46 Most holy
48 Plant disease
50 Lamp gas
51 Leaves off
53 Temple
56 by ear
57 Abandon's land
58 Sound system
61 Forum garment
62 by ear
63 Submarine
64 State with confidence
65 Ale: loose —
66 Tatters
67 Unpleasant smell

DOWN
1 Veld of song
2 USSR mountain range
3 — hand
4 Subterfuge

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1. HALL
5. LACERATION
9. SUB
13. DASH
14. ERNE
15. DOUGH RISERS
16. INTUITION
17. FIRST NAME IN WHODUNITS
18. STALK
19. ACTOR DAVIS
20. TOO
21. RUSS, SEA
22. RYE TYPE
23. THE BILL
24. (PAYS)
25. MONEY
26. BEANS (IN DISORDER)
27. PERFORMING
28. FENCING SWORDS
29. PERFORMED, SATIRICALLY
30. ACTOR WILLIAMS
31. THEATRE
32. THEATRE
33. ACTOR WILLIAMS
34. THEATRE
35. THEATRE
36. THEATRE
37. THEATRE
38. THEATRE
39. THEATRE
40. THEATRE
41. THEATRE
42. MUCH

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5. LACERATION
9. SUB
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31. THEATRE
32. THEATRE
33. ACTOR WILLIAMS
34. THEATRE
35. THEATRE
36. THEATRE
37. THEATRE
38. THEATRE
39. THEATRE
40. THEATRE
41. THEATRE
42. MUCH

saturday 16.8, Sunday 17.8, Monday 18.8

CATCH TRAIN TO THE AIRPORT

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Open daily: Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle, opposite to Akiliah Hospital

Tel: 641093

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Farhan Fahh Oudh	M. Shihan	Owner	Ibrahim	56
2- A. El Hameed Sammour	M. Hatim	Owner	George	54.5
3- A. El Hameed Fadil	Sanaa	Owner	A. Jabir	54.5
4- Naief Salim El Kaisy	R. El Balka	Owner	Owner	54.5
5- A. El Hady Falah	El Aghar	Owner	Dalallah	53
6- Dary Basheer Sbatel	El Nahidah	Owner	A. Amarah	51.5
7- Abdullah Ahmad Awwad	Reshah	Owner	Mostafa	51.5
8- Khalaf Yousef Fwaidan	El Ahmady	Owner	Yousef	50
9- Ahmad Salim El Fanash	S. Heshim	Owner	Shat El-Arab	50
10- Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	Shat El-Arab	Owner	Salim	50
11- Shihadih Atwah Slimy	H. Wasi	Owner	A. Jagheef	48.5
12- Ahmad Khalaf El Adwan	Salhar Sali	Owner	Sead	48.5
13- A. El Sattar Matar	Shok	Owner	Owner	48.5
14- Ahmad Sakman Khawarith	Jadad	Owner	Owner	56
15- Mikdad Hassan Innab				

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Mitak Bary Atieh	Mansour	Owner	Owner	56
2- Mohammad Salim Aly	R. El Fala	Owner	A. Amarah	54.5
3- Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	N. El Salt	Owner	Owner	53
4- Ahmad Mohammad Husamy	Alwah	Owner	Dalallah	51.5
5- Ghalib Haddadin	Tarik	Owner	George	50
6- Mihal El Falez	Nomas	Owner	Mousa	50
7- Khalif Haddadin	A. El Maha	Owner	Mostafa	50
8- Mansour El Matar	Makadecr	Owner	A. Jabir	50
9- Saif El Din El Iji	El Falez	Owner	Yousef	48.5
10- Samy Haddadin	Birt Elizz	Owner	Kasim	48.5
11- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Maha	Owner	Ibrahim	48.5
12- Kandour & Fakhoury	Kamah	Owner	Paul	48.5
13- Ghazy Farah A. Jabir	El Guhi	Owner	Mwafak	46.5

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Yazan	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	56
2- Mihal El Falez	Battata	Owner	Mousa	56
3- Yousef Rahhal	W. El Seelih	Owner	Owner	56
4- Faisal Awwad El Falez	Kas El Molouk	Owner	Rasheed	55
5- Jamal Mohammad El Zabin	El Hamdan	Owner	Owner	55
6- Samy Yacoub Medros	Sead	Owner	Sead	53
7- Ghazy Farah A. Jabir	El Dabouk	Owner	Mwafak	51.5
8- Samy Haddadin	Raad	Owner	George	50
9- Ghalib Haddadin	Batal	Owner	Kasim	50

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Hany Kamal Bsharat	L. B. Basar	Owner	Salah	60
2- Mihal El Falez	M. El Ayal	Owner	Mousa	56
3- Mihal El Falez	Ibr. El Fiez	Owner	Owner	55
4- Mihal El Falez	El Zafir	Owner	Saad	53
5- Hadeel Hany El Hadeed	Diana	Owner	A. Jabir	53.5
6- Hadeel Hany El Hadeed	Malak	Owner	Owner	51.5
7- Kandour & Fakhoury	Kaban	Owner	Paul	53

SOUND AND LIGHT AT JERASH

Will start 15/8/1986 evenings at 7:30 as follows

Arabic language on Friday, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday.
English language on Saturday, Monday, Wednesday.

Tickets on sale at site at JD 1 (children up to 12 years old only 100 fils)

Special JETT buses to Jerash leave daily from Abdali JETT station at 5 p.m. sharp and back to Amman after show.

慕堂餐廳 MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant.

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.
Fully Airconditioned

Take away available
Open daily 12:00 - 13:30
18:00 - 23:30

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Amman, Jordan
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AMMAN JORDAN

EMBASSY OF INDIA, AMMAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

To mark the Independence Day of the Republic of India a flag-hoisting ceremony will take place on Friday Aug. 15, 1986, at 9 a.m. at the embassy residence (between Third and Fourth Circles, Jabal Amman). All Indian nationals are cordially invited to attend.

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahilyah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
Tel: 638968

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for lunch and dinner FRIDAY

Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

FRIDAY ... THE GRAND OPENING CINEMA PLAZA

The most modern and elegant cinema in Jordan at Housing Bank Centre.

1) COBRA
2) FOLLOW THAT BIRD
3) THE WILD LIFE

Cine PLAZA

Cinema CONCORD
Tel: 677420

1) COBRA
2) FOLLOW THAT BIRD
3) THE WILD LIFE

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAINBOW
Tel: 625155

RAW DEAL

Performances 3:30, 5:30, 9:00, 10:45

Cinema OPERA
Tel: 675573

TUFF TURF

Performances 3:15, 5:00, 8:45, 10:45

Cine-Theatre Philadelphia
Tel: 634144, 634149

KARATE KID PART II

Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:45

Cinema RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198

1) NO RETREAT, NO SURRENDER
2) FAMILY SWIMMING POOL

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4865/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3893/98	Canadian dollars
	2.0690/0700	West German marks
	2.3315/25	Dutch guilders
	1.6677/87	Swiss francs
	42.80/85	Belgian francs
	6.7250/7300	French francs
	1423/1424	Italian lire
	154.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.9350/9400	Swedish crowns
	7.3700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.7410/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	391.00/393.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed at the day's highs, moving ahead again as buyers' confidence returned after a mid-session setback. By 1430 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up 21.0 to 1,579.2, making for a near 60 point rise since Monday.

Dealers said the buoyancy of Wall Street over the past two sessions and speculation that an international coordinated round of interest rate cuts might not be too far off had sharpened buyers' appetite for stock.

But operators said volume was on the low side, with the thinness of trade giving rise to some exaggerated movements. ICI closed 5p up at 984 on U.S. demand.

Dealers said Wednesday's U.K. June industrial production figures, showing a 1.2 per cent fall after a 1.8 per cent drop in May, were largely discounted following a number of recently disappointing results and had scant impact on shares.

Operators took some comfort from news of a 0.6 per cent rise in U.K. June manufacturing output, after May's 0.7 per cent fall. One dealer said: "The market was looking pretty quiet Wednesday afternoon until people had another look at the (manufacturing) output figures and decided things weren't so bad."

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS., AUGUST 14, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is fine for making long-range plans. You can add all kinds of beneficial and up-to-date ideas.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact older persons who may have good ideas that will help you to advance. Be enthused about them.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have good, practical ideas but should consult an expert in business if you are to be successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A friend of long standing can give you good ideas which should be followed. Get out of your rut.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Make sure you add new ideas to your job so that it can be more than satisfactory.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get that talent you possess working more efficiently. Take no risks while out driving in the world.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get busy making your home more charming and functional. Tonight is fine for entertaining intelligent guests.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study into your newspaper and other periodicals and make your routines operate more efficiently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Use your regular methods for getting ahead. An advisor can give you much help today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can reach those personal aims. Look to old friends as well as new ones for the excitement you crave.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study every aspect of private desires and use positive methods. Take no risks while driving.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Good pals will give you quite a bit of support in gaining your cherished wishes and so will newcomers.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Add more modern assistants to those you have now. Go after your goals with confidence now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very much interested in varying philosophies of life and should be given every chance to study along such lines. Upon reaching adulthood your child will want to follow New Age activities which are popular throughout the world.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have some fixed and difficult problems today in putting across various comprehensive ideas.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You want to get started on a new course of action, but this is not the right time for such.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Not the ideal time to take positive action where business interests that intrigue you are concerned.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A blunt partner can make things hard for you by harping on any mistakes you make, if you allow it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Carry through with whatever you are now working on even though you are not so enthused.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Some amusement plan can be very costly and not work out as you like, so forget it. Use more patience.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use wisdom but keep silent at home. Wait until tensions have been removed before inviting guests over.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you accept outsiders as they are and not try to make them different you can get along well with them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to cut down on expenses and build up your bank account. More attention to exercise is important.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be less forceful in going after your wishes and be more thoughtful of others than usual.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A worry should not deter you from handling outside and civic duties. Don't quarrel with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be subtle in trying to gain your intimate wishes. Being forceful could get you absolutely nowhere.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your outside associates well and know what they really desire from you. Don't take any risks.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be able to comprehend a variety of philosophies so be encouraging in this important study that can make the life happier and more successful. A most interesting life here so be sure to give the right kind of training for best results. Gentle sports are best.

Pentagon ends ban on Fiat contracts despite Libya's 14 per cent holding

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department Tuesday ended a ban against doing business with Italy's giant Fiat company despite Libya's continued part ownership in the firm.

The agreement cleared the way for Fiat-Allis, a subsidiary of Fiat SPA of Turin, to get a \$7.9 million contract to build U.S. Marine crawler troop vehicles and to compete for "Star Wars" anti-missile research contracts in the future.

The Pentagon announced on May 21 that it would not deal with Fiat SPA because Libya, which holds about 15 per cent of the firm's stock, supported world terrorism.

But that suspension was lifted Tuesday after Fiat and the Defence Department reached agreement under which no profits from U.S. contracts will go to Libya, the Pentagon said.

Libya would retain its part ownership of Fiat.

"Fiat has agreed to take the steps necessary to prevent profits earned from contracts with the Defence Department from being paid to the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company, an agent of the government of Libya," the Pentagon said in a statement.

"This restoration of Fiat's eligibility for defence contracts will permit Fiat, as one of the major industrial organisations in Italy, a valued NATO partner, to continue to participate in Defence Department programmes," it added.

"We are now telling the Marines that you can go ahead with it (the crawler contract)," said Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood. "It is up to them from here."

Both the Pentagon and officials of Fiat in Turin said Tuesday that the agreement provides for any

contracts between Fiat and the Defence Department to be handled through a trading company which will be owned by Fiat and established in the United States under American law.

A Fiat spokesman told Reuters that the agreement meant that the road was now open for Fiat to participate in President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, better known as Star Wars, in which firms from Britain, West Germany and Israel are already competing with U.S. companies for research contracts.

Reagan administration officials told Reuters last week that Italy was apparently ready to sign a government-to-government agreement with Washington under which Italian firms will also seek to do research work into weapons which might destroy nuclear missiles in flight.

A statement issued by Fiat Tuesday quoted the firm's managing director, Mr. Cesare Romiti, as saying he never had any doubts that the freeze would be lifted.

Libya willing to buy more

Meanwhile, Libya cleared up confusion over its relationship with the Fiat car company Tuesday by saying it had no intention of selling its controversial stake in the Italian firm and indeed was seeking to buy more Fiat shares.

Tripoli's ambassador to Rome, Mr. Abdul Rahman Shalgam, told Reuters: "We are willing to continue investing in Fiat. If we find an opportunity to increase our current stake in Fiat, if we can find someone who wants to sell, then we will buy."

Mr. Shalgam was commenting on a news agency interview given in Rome by the director of the Libyan Arab Investment Company (LAFICO), a holding

company for Libyan investments in Italy.

Director Mohammed Shetewi Naas was quoted as saying LAFICO was ready to "pack its bags" as far as its 14 per cent holding in Fiat was concerned.

Mr. Shalgam said the press had wrongly interpreted Mr. Naas' remarks.

The interview with Mr. Naas, coming only five days after Italian magistrates ordered the sequestration of seven billion lire (\$4.9 million) of Libyan government funds deposited here, was given major television and newspaper coverage.

Mr. Naas was quoted as saying: "We're ready to pack our bags. If the Agnelli family is willing to buy back the Fiat shares we own, paying the price set by us, we're ready to sell out."

But only a few hours after publication, Mr. Naas denied the report, saying: "We have no intention of selling our shares in Fiat."

The Agnelli family, which controls Fiat, said earlier this year it wanted to buy back the Libyan stake, acquired in the mid-1970s when the Italian firm was in difficult straits.

Libya reacted angrily to the sequestration of its funds, requested by two Italian companies which allege they have still to receive payment for goods supplied to Libyan companies in 1980 and 1981.

Industrial sources said Mr. Naas's original remarks, if they were correctly reported, could perhaps be interpreted as a fit of Libyan pique following the freezing of its funds.

Although Fiat ordinary (voting) shares closed 2.4 per cent higher on the day on the Milan bourse, dealers there also expressed scepticism about the original report.

L'Air Liquide buys Big Three Industries

HOUSTON (R) — L'Air Liquide, the world's largest producer of industrial gases, has purchased Big Three Industries, a leading U.S. industrial gas company, for \$1.05 billion, the two companies said Tuesday.

The purchase price represents about \$29 a share. On news of the proposed merger, Big Three's stock rose \$4.75 to \$28.875 a share in active trading.

"The acquisition of Big Three will complement L'Air Liquide's existing industrial gas business in the United States and will enable L'Air Liquide to participate more fully in the future growth of United States industrial gas markets," the two firms said in a statement.

But Wall Street analysts said the purchase price was less than expected, and some said Big

Three was worth more. In addition to its industrial gases business, Big Three also manufactures oil field equipment and sells welding equipment.

Analysts said that the lagging energy division, hit by the worldwide slump in oil drilling, was a likely candidate to be sold.

Last year, Big Three earned \$14.5 million on revenues of \$834 million.

Report finds West Africa still poor despite international help

WASHINGTON (R) — Nine West African countries in the drought-prone Sahel region remain among the world's poorest despite a decade of U.S. aid, a congressional study said Tuesday.

The study by the Office of Technology (OTA), a research arm of Congress, estimates that up to \$20 billion in long-term international aid will be needed.

"Sahelians lag behind most of Africa in child survival, life expectancy, individual annual income and per capita food production," the report says.

"At the same time, they face mounting debt, expanding

populations and degrading natural resources," it added.

The report, ordered by Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, was an interim review of a 10-year U.S. development programme that channelled \$1.4 billion to Chad, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Gambia, Cape Verde Islands and Guinea Bissau.

The report found that while U.S. and other international aid, in particular for agricultural development projects, had helped to ease the region's problems, much more needed to be done to find long-term solutions.

Gulf insurance rates may rise

LONDON (R) — Insurers at Lloyds of London are poised to announce a sharp rise in rates for tankers in the Gulf following Iraqi raid on Sirri Island and recent Iranian attacks on shipping in the waterway, brokers said. Sources at a leading war risk brokers firm, told Reuters they expected an increase of at least 100 per cent in additional premiums for insuring tankers in the region.

Although rates for Iran's main terminal at Kharg Island and the northern Gulf have gone up in recent months, the expected rise would be the first for many months in premiums for the southern Gulf.

Oil prices rise on Gulf war news, U.S. stocks

NEW YORK (R) — Iraq's attack on the Iranian oil terminal at Sirri Island and figures showing a drop in U.S. inventories sent oil sharply higher Tuesday with some prices up 65 cents a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark U.S. oil, was quoted at \$15.55 a barrel late in the day after the release of weekly inventory figures from the American Petroleum Institute (API) industry group.

The API figures showed sharp falls in U.S. petrol and crude oil stocks, sending spot market prices higher. They were released after the close of trading in the futures market.

A trade in North Sea Brent oil for September loading was confirmed at \$13.90 a barrel after the API report was issued, 70 cents above Monday's price.

In the futures market the September contract for crude oil had risen 44 cents a barrel to \$15.35.

"In the order of importance, the Iraqi attack on Sirri Island was the primary factor in Tuesday's market," said Mr. John Hill, vice president of Merrill Lynch Futures, of the futures market activity.

Sirri is a key terminal for Iranian oil export: following continued attacks on the main terminal at Kharg Island. "Iraq's attack on Sirri Island gave the market a base from which to rise," said Mr. Howard Rensel of Cargill Investor Services.

Also pushing the market higher were comments by industry sources Monday that Saudi Arabia, the biggest producer within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), was ending the incentives which have helped it increase its oil output.

Saudi Arabia is due to cut its

output from the current six million barrels a day to 4.35 million barrels daily under the cutback programme approved last week by the group. The cutback is to run for two months beginning Sept. 1.

Nigerian minister tells firms to cut production

In Lagos, Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman has told oil companies operating in Nigeria to start cutting output from the present 1.7 million barrels per day (b/d) in preparation for OPEC's agreed reduction, state television reported Monday.

Mr. Lukman was quoted as telling oil industry executives in Lagos that their companies would be assigned strict production limits within Nigeria's quota of 1.3 million b/d.

On his return from Geneva last week, Mr. Lukman said Nigeria would adhere strictly to the agreed two-month period of production restraint.

Moscow faces difficulties

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union faces a collapse in its hard currency earnings this year following the crash in the price of oil, its main export to the West, according to a report published in Vienna.

The Vienna Institute for Comparative Economic Studies forecast that Moscow would lose some \$7 billion, or one third of its hard currency revenue, in 1986 as a result of the two-thirds drop in world oil prices earlier this year.

market conditions."

A sustained slide in real estate and share values since 1982 has slashed the value of many debtors' assets and loan collateral, much of which comprises property or stock holdings that would attract poor resale prices in the current climate.

As the settlement procedure would affect the banks' financial status, Sheikh Khorafi pledged state support to "ensure a sound position for banks, so as to protect rights of shareholders and depositors as well."

During this period, KUNA said, "the original debt will be repaid either by liquidating such assets or by (financial) returns, if any, taking into account the prevailing

Kuwait pledges to support banks

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, unveiling a plan to reschedule crippling local debts caused by a stock market crash in 1982, has pledged support for domestic banks to protect their dealings at home and abroad.

Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi, in remarks reported Tuesday by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said also debts would be rescheduled in a way that ensured "the right of debtors and their families to a decent and dignified living."

The plan is the latest in a series of steps taken by the state to overcome a debt crisis triggered by the crash of the official bourse and unofficial Souk Al Manakh stock markets.

Their collapse left some \$95 billion of debt. Most of this has been watered down, but big sums are still owed.

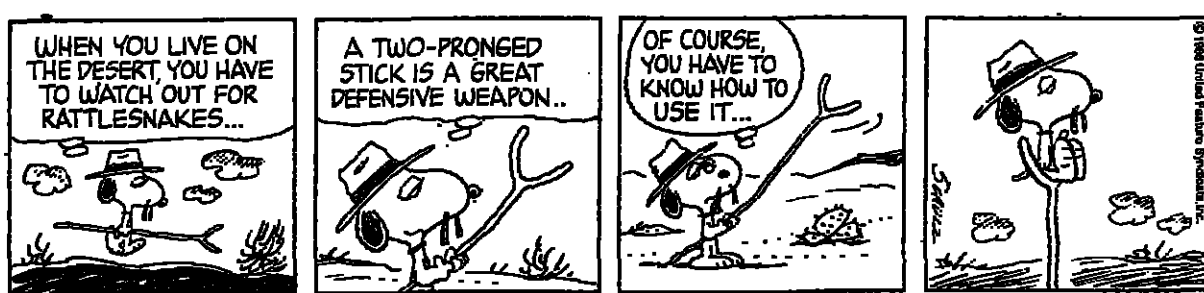
The outstanding loans of Kuwait banks total some 4.2 billion dinars (\$14.5 billion) of which two-thirds are estimated by banking sources to be unsecured against assets. Up to a quarter of this may be bad or doubtful debt, they say.

"The minister assured that the Kuwait Central Bank would give

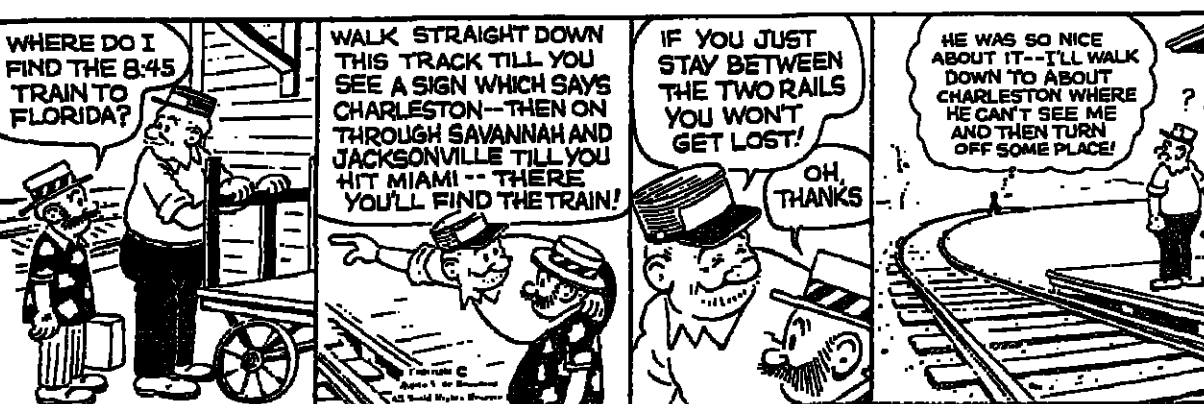
U.S. loses billions of dollars in unreported foreign income

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States loses billions of dollars a year in taxes owed by Americans living abroad and those here who do not report their foreign income, concluded a congressional report released Tuesday. The House Government Operations Committee reported that as many as 61 per cent of the estimated 1.8 million civilian Americans living abroad do not file tax returns, leading to annual tax losses of \$1 billion to \$2 billion a year. In addition, U.S. individuals and businesses earned about \$91 billion in foreign income in 1984, but only a fraction was reported to the U.S. government by foreign authorities, the report said. The committee suggested the State Department provide to the Internal Revenue Service information on the estimated 250,000 Americans who annually seek passport renewals from U.S. embassies abroad.

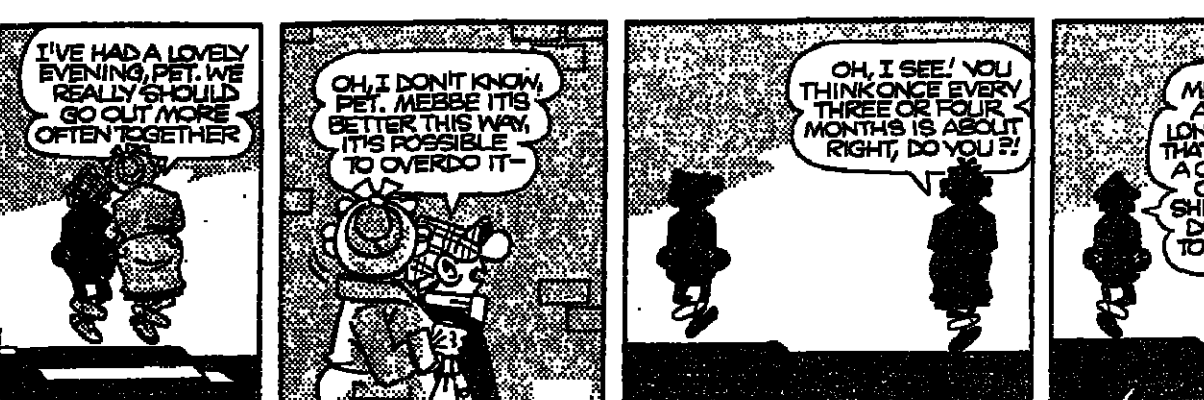
Peanuts



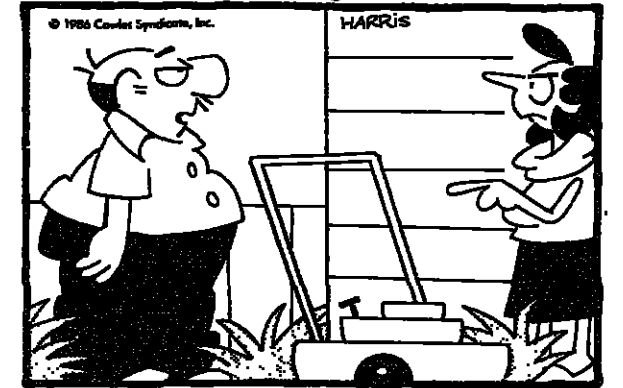
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I moved over an ant once. I don't think I could handle that kind of guilt again."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ECCLY

PLUIP

HUCHAN

YAHMME

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLAID MOUSE INNING SAVORY

Answer: What an optometrist is—A MAN OF VISION

Reagan rejects sanctions against South Africa

CHICAGO (R) — In a strong defence of his South African policies, President Reagan said calls for sanctions against South Africa were mainly supported by the most radical South African blacks.

At a televised news conference, Mr. Reagan said the white minority government in Pretoria was far preferable to the leftist regime in Nicaragua and expressed hope that Western diplomatic persuasion could still bring forth a peaceful solution to South Africa's racial strife.

Declaring impatience with South African apartheid, he said that he and President P.W. Botha had the same goal of ending Pretoria's system of racial segregation.

"I think there are evidences that maybe ourselves and some of our allies could be invited to meet with their (South African) government representatives and see if we couldn't bring about some coming together of the responsible leaders of the black community," Mr. Reagan said.

Insisting, as he has before, that Western economic sanctions — including many now pending before Congress — would hurt African blacks worse than the minority whites, he stated that many moderate South African black leaders had told him they too opposed such pressure tactics.

He fumbled for the name of one black South African bishop who had told him this, saying it was something like "Moreno" and he would have to learn to pronounce it. He added that this man spoke for four and a half million black

Christians.

Botha challenges blacks

Meanwhile, South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha challenged blacks to resign from their jobs Wednesday to prove they did not mind suffering economic hardship from punitive sanctions against Pretoria.

Mr. Botha, in a speech prepared for a congress of the ruling white National Party here, said foreign states clamouring for sanctions to force an end to racial segregation in South Africa ignored the impact the measures would have on black unemployment.

"Let those blacks who allegedly want suffering set a personal example... by resigning their jobs, by giving up their incomes right here and thus set an example to those who are called upon to sacrifice their jobs and income," Mr. Botha said.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, head of South Africa's Anglican Church, and trade union leaders, are among the blacks who support sanctions.

Mr. Botha suggested the exiled African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla group fighting to topple the white-dominated Pretoria government, was bribing neighbouring black-ruled states to impose sanctions with promises of a pay-off from South Africa's

mineral riches if it came to power.

"It is perhaps not too far-fetched to assume that they (neighbouring states) have been deceived by the ANC with promises of financial and economic compensation from South Africa's mineral wealth."

"Perhaps there are promises as regards mineral cartels as well," the foreign minister said.

The congress opened Tuesday night with a hard-line speech from President P.W. Botha, who told delegates his government would push ahead with its own brand of apartheid reform.

He said there might be a referendum among whites on constitutional change "sooner than many expect" but set his face firmly against meeting international demands for talks with black nationalist leaders and for a swift scrapping of race segregation.

Rather than offering further easing of racial segregation, Mr. Botha hinted at the possibility that big black townships near major cities could be turned into mini-states.

"I sometimes ask myself the question if a state such as Luxembourg can be independent, why can black urban communities, close to our metropolitan areas not receive full autonomy as city-states," he said.

The congress, the first countrywide gathering of National Party delegates since 1982, took place amid growing concern among white over the future of the country, under a two-month-old state of emergency imposed to fight mass black agitation.

Soviets reportedly begin military exercises

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union's Pacific Fleet has launched a large-scale air and sea exercise in waters north of Japan, U.S. Defence Department sources have said.

The manoeuvres apparently involve at least 15 combat surface warships and more than 15 submarines in addition to a large number of land-based Bear and Backfire aircraft, said one source, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not identified.

The Soviet naval force was observed gathering to the north of the Japan in the Western Pacific over the weekend, and the manoeuvres appeared to begin Tuesday, the sources said.

"We saw what looked like a lot of small-scale naval manoeuvres over the weekend and now they've come together into what appears to be a large-scale, coordinated exercise," said one source.

Another official said the exercise was being staged to the east and west of the Kuril Islands. The ships appear to be practising "the formation of a defensive perimeter barrier to protect sea approaches to their submarine bases in the area," the source said.

The Soviet force includes the Kiev, a helicopter carrier that is among the largest ships in the Soviet fleet, as well as two large, nuclear-powered cruisers, the Kirov and Frunze, the sources said. Accompanying those ships are a variety of smaller cruisers, guided-missile destroyers and other destroyers, they added.

The United States has two destroyers "in the general vicinity," monitoring the activity, one source said. There are no U.S. aircraft carriers near the area, but another source said aerial surveillance by land-based aircraft was quite likely.

The sources said they had no indication how long the Soviet exercise might last.

But we do view this as another indication of the Soviet's interest in an expansion into the Pacific region," said one source. "This is a large exercise for them."

Pakistan detains Bhutto, other opposition leaders

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani authorities detained opposition leader Benazir Bhutto at Karachi airport Wednesday in a swoop on politicians to enforce a ban on political rallies, police said.

They said Ms. Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), was stopped at the airport before she could board a plane to the Punjab town of Faisalabad.

Earlier Wednesday the police detained several other politicians across the country after the main opposition alliance had said it would defy the ban on rallies on the national Independence Day Thursday, opposition sources said.

PPP Secretary General Tikka Khan was detained early Wednesday in Rawalpindi, the sources said, adding that he will be held for seven days. The sources said that the PPP's Sind province president, Makhdoom Khaliquezaman, had also been detained in Sind.

PPP officials were also detained

in several other towns in Punjab and Sind provinces Tuesday night and many others had gone into hiding before police began raiding their houses, the sources said.

Ms. Bhutto, daughter and political heir of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was due to arrive Wednesday in Faisalabad from where she planned to lead a motorcade Wednesday to a rally in the provincial capital of Lahore.

Authorities in Lahore issued orders late Tuesday night prohibiting meetings at which speeches would be made or statements issued. They also barred carrying of weapons.

The PPP is the main force in the ten party Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which wants fresh national polls by the end of the year.

The Junejo government, elected last year in partyless polls, has rejected demands for new elections.

Lange receives defence assurances from Australia

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Prime Minister David Lange said Wednesday that Australia would continue full defence ties with New Zealand despite an American decision to drop his nation from a three-country alliance.

"I had thought there was a possibility that the United States would place limits on Australia's ability to cooperate with us," Mr. Lange said in an interview with Radio New Zealand.

"I had been expecting more... but it became clear over the weekend that there would be no draconian steps taken and that it would in fact be business as usual," he said.

Under the Australia-New Zealand-United States (ANZUS) treaty, the countries held joint defence exercises and shared each other's port facilities.

There was no immediate reaction from Australia to Mr. Lange's remarks. However, the remarks implied he had received assurances from Australia that the defence relationship would continue on a bilateral basis.

The United States on Tuesday formally suspended its security obligations to New Zealand under ANZUS because of that country's anti-nuclear stance.

Washington maintained that New Zealand's refusal to allow

port visits by nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships rendered the 35-year-old treaty unworkable.

Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden has accused the U.S. Congress of undermining the economy and defence of the South West Pacific with "destructive" protectionism.

His comments, which Australian observers called his strongest yet on the subject, came a day after Australian and U.S. officials reaffirmed their ties but failed to resolve a dispute over agricultural exports.

Mr. Hayden, in a 25-minute address Tuesday to local civic groups, reiterated that Australia was angry at U.S. plans to sell wheat to the Soviet Union, one of its own key grain customers, at taxpayer-subsidised bargain prices.

He described the latest plan as "unashamed protectionism" that threatens to deal a \$1-billion blow to an Australian economy already straining to meet Pacific defence needs.

"Our ability to contribute to regional stability at a time when it is facing new challenges will be impaired by our economic difficulties, many of which stem from the blow to our (export) earnings inflicted by agricultural subsidies," he said.

COLUMNS 7&8

Research wins King Fahd award

ISTANBUL (R) — Researchers on Topkapi Palace in Istanbul and the City Palace at Medinat Al Zahra in Spain will share the \$100,000 grand prize of the first King Fahd Islamic Architecture Competition, organisers announced Wednesday. A jury meeting here last week reviewed 90 pieces of architectural research and 90 designs from 40 countries, they said. No grand prize was awarded in the design section of the contest but 10 entries won merit awards of \$4,000 each.

Child marriages rising in India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Outlawed child marriages are on the rise in three north Indian states, the deputy law minister told parliament Tuesday. Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, core of the traditional Hindu religion, top the list for child marriages, said H.R. Bhargava, minister of state for law and justice. Between 1977 and 1979, nearly 500 criminal cases were filed under the child marriages act in 10 states and 390 cases were filed in Gujarat alone, the minister said. He did not provide current statistics but said the problem was increasing. According to unofficial estimates and numerous press reports, nearly 30,000 children are married in Rajasthan state every year. Although the practice is banned by law, the law is rarely enforced.

Prince Charles leaves Spain for Scotland

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles, who has been vacationing in the Mediterranean with Princess Diana and their two sons, went to Scotland on Tuesday to join his mother Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the royal family on a cruise through the Western Isles. Diana, Prince William, 4, and Prince Harry, nearly 2, stayed on in Majorca, Spain, where they have been guests of the Spanish royal family since Thursday. Charles, 37-year-old heir to the throne, had a longstanding arrangement to return to Britain several days before his wife and children, Buckingham Palace said. Among those on board the royal yacht Britannia were Charles' brother Andrew and his wife — the newlywed Duke and Duchess of York as well as Prince Edward, youngest of the queen's children.

Thatcher proves her fitness

CONSTANTINE BAY, England (R) — Only 24 hours after Britain's Queen Elizabeth dispelled doubts about her health by climbing to the top of a lighthouse, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did the same thing by breaking into an uncharacteristic run along a Cornish beach. Mrs. Thatcher, who spent several days in a London clinic last week after surgery on her hand, delighted watching photographers and reporters by breaking into a run at this secluded south-west holiday resort. She was walking a dog belonging to her hosts and afterwards told reporters: "I should really keep my hand in a sling for a few more days but pointing it upwards like that makes me look like a traffic policeman."

Developer plans to build tallest building

NEWARK, N.J. (R) — A New Jersey developer has unveiled plans for the tallest building in the world, a 121-story, 583-metre office tower in Newark. The world's present tallest building is the 110-story, 484-metre Sears Tower in Chicago. Harry Grant, of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, said the structure, to be called "Grant USA," would be completed in 1991 and contain three million square feet (278,709 square metres) of office space as well as a half-million square feet (46,451 square metres) of retail space.

Tamils describe plight before rescue

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (AP) — Tamil refugees rescued from lifeboats off Newfoundland said they prayed, cried and became seasick during five days at sea in search of land.

When a Canadian fishing boat spotted the 152 refugees in two crowded lifeboats, "all the people shouted and cried because they were happy," Kandasamy Lingaratnam, 31, said after the refugees arrived Tuesday.

"We thought we had missed the place and would die," said the

self-appointed spokesman for the Tamils, members of the Hindu ethnic minority on the strife-torn Indian Ocean island of Sri Lanka.

Lingaratnam, who said the voyage began July 7 in India and identified himself as a Sri Lankan navy deserter, said many of the refugees fought the ethnic Sinhalese government on Sri Lanka.

At a news conference, Immigration Minister Benoit Bouchard said he has issued minister's permits allowing the

group to stay in Canada for up to a year.

The permits give the government legal authority to provide the castaways with food, shelter and medical attention, until eventual applications for political asylum are processed.

Marimuthu Thavarajan, 36, a heavy vehicle driver, showed reporters a long scar on the back of his neck and said Sri Lankan police had slashed him with a knife.

Senate defeats attempt to block aid to contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate, brushing aside claims that the United States is headed toward war in Central America, defeated a series of Democratic attempts to kill or limit President Ronald Reagan's \$100-million aid package for Nicaragua's contra rebels.

On the key test vote, the Republican-controlled Senate supported Mr. Reagan's aid package, 54-46, and later rejected another amendment, 51-47, that would have barred the Central Intelligence Agency from drawing on other secret funds to funnel extra aid to the contras.

Democrats sought Tuesday to delete \$70 million in arms and \$30 million in logistical aid for the contras — along with \$300 million in economic aid to four other nations in Central America — from an \$8.2-billion military construction bill.

"We are at a crossroads with this vote," said Senator James Sasser, a Democrat who sponsored the effort to drop the money. "We are talking today

about the first step toward war (and) it will almost certainly be a war in which American young people will be involved."

But Sen. Sasser's proposal was tabled — or killed — as 11 Democrats joined with 43 Republicans in support of one of Mr. Reagan's top foreign policy priorities: 36 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted against the tabling motion, or in favour of Sen. Sasser.

Later, the Senate also defeated, 51-47, an amendment by Senate minority leader Robert Byrd to bar the CIA from augmenting the \$100 million by lending equipment to the contras, charging Nicaragua-related expenses to other accounts or drawing from a secret reserve fund.

But Senator Richard Lugar, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, urged the Senate not to "throw an additional roadblock in front" of Mr. Reagan's plan to support for the contras.

S. Korea to release 885 prisoners, few dissidents

SEOUL (R) — South Korea will release 885 prisoners Thursday, including dissidents, under an amnesty marking the country's liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945, the Justice Ministry said.

State prosecutors also said Wednesday they had dropped charges of violence in parliament brought against 16 members of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), which is backed by dissidents Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam.

They said the move was to promote a compromise on constitutional reform between the ruling and opposition parties.

Among the prisoners being freed were 36 students, workers and other dissidents and 10 people convicted of pro-Communist charges, but most of those to be released were common criminals, the ministry said.

The students include some

Chun Doo Hwan.

But the amnesty did not benefit Mr. Chun's most outspoken opponent, Kim Dae-Jung, who is not in custody but is barred from political activity due to a suspended 20-year jail term for sedition.

The NKDP has demanded that the government restore Mr. Kim's political and civil rights and free about 800 people it calls prisoners of conscience.

Government prosecutors said they withdrew the indictment against six NKDP members of parliament and dropped preliminary charges against 10 others who had not been indicted.

The members of parliament were accused of violence in connection with fighting that broke out between ruling and opposition members in parliament in December after Mr. Chun's Democratic Justice Party forced through its 1986 budget despite an opposition boycott.

The opposition did not oppose the budget, but tried to link it with demands for direct presidential elections next year. Under the current system, the president is elected by an electoral college.

Ex-general calls for review of Indonesian military rule

JAKARTA (R) — A former general turned dissident has called for an end to the military's role in Indonesia's government, saying the armed forces have become a mere tool for those in power.

Former Jakarta Governor Ali Sadikin, an outspoken critic of President Suharto's 20-year rule, also called for a limit on how long a president could stay in office and said a major shift in economic direction was needed.

Mr. Suharto's government is dominated by serving or retired military officers and the armed forces have an automatic 100 seats in the 460-seat House of Representatives.

The military plays an active role in politics under the theory that the armed forces have a "dual function" to defend the country and the constitution.

"The dual function must be returned to its original concept in which the main precondition is that it should be temporary, used in a state of emergency and not become dominant," Gen. Sadikin, who ran Jakarta between 1966 and 1977, said in a paper made available to Reuters Wednesday.

The paper was presented Tuesday at a meeting attended by

a number of former military and civilian leaders critical of the Suharto government.

Most people in the government were insensitive to people's complaints and acted in an authoritarian manner, Gen. Sadikin, a former Lieutenant-General in the marines, said.

Mr. Suharto has repeatedly defended the military's political role, while assuring the nation that his government would never become totalitarian.

"History has proven that even in the hardest times for the nation... the armed forces have never acted in a militaristic fashion," Mr. Suharto said in a speech during Armed Forces Day last October.

Gen. Sadikin, who served under Mr. Suharto for 11 years, has become the most vocal critic of the government since retiring from public office in 1977. He is also the most outspoken member of the "Group of 50," a dissident organisation linking retired officers, former civil servants and religious leaders.

Gen. Sadikin called for a limiting a president to two consecutive five-year terms.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

POSSIBILITIES
By Bernice Gordon

- ACROSS
- Comic Johnson
 - Farmer at
 - Let up
 - Logger's
 - Contest
 - Olav accedes
 - Basic compound
 - Use much
 - Blush
 - Turner of song
 - Penguins for
 - Age problem
 - Jettes for
 - A nohemism?
 - Disposed
 - One: Gar.
 - An Amherst
 - Biological city
 - Uncle —

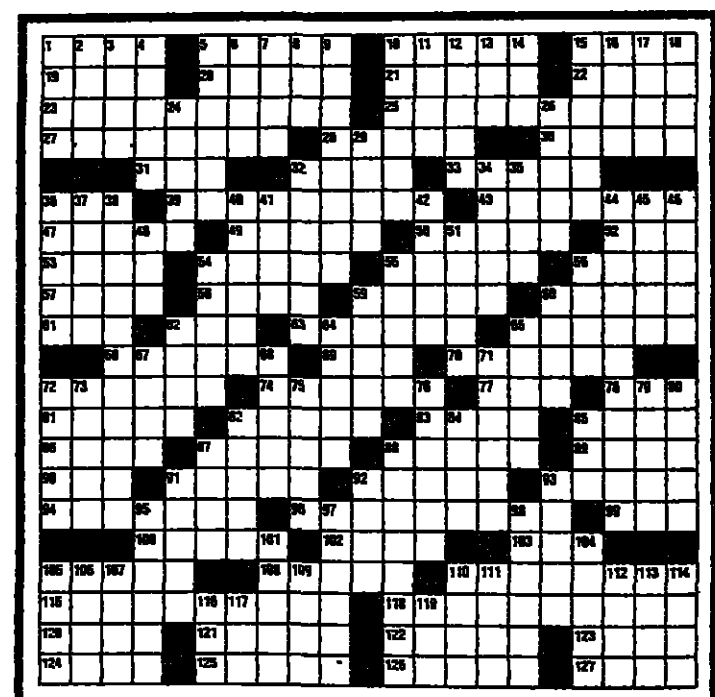
- DOWN
- Linon
 - Restraints
 - Comic Marthe
 - Revolution
 - Foy or Albert
 - Head cedar
 - Leave out
 - Learn and
 - Close
 - Hold back
 - Fill out's
 - Value again
 - Told beasts
 - Onion course
 - Make a gaffe
 - Ill. cat.
 - Mark of shame
 - Amusing one
 - Regarding
 - Russ, news
 - Agency
 - Viscous mud
 - City in India

Diagramless

17 X 17, by Roger Coburn

- ACROSS
- Fled to read
 - Photo taker
 - Type of oil
 - Very awful
 - Canoeist
 - hour
 - Comic Johnson
 - Shush
 - Singly
 - Afternoon
 - affair
 - Encourage

- DOWN
- "...vill."
 - Reconfort
 - Morning
 - Scary
 - Scandals in
 - myriad
 - Children's
 - center
 - Single time
 - Body
 - Tireless
 - stopover



Last Week's Cryptograms

- This old house had more than heirlooms; it had enough mortgages.
- The modern maven says, "You never miss the bear till the bar runs dry!"
- For willful mountain hunter, catching big catamount was tantamount to being his paramour parant.
- New real estate salesman sold small lot to staid writer.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. COGCEVGOIZE XBIEATNOFEXGE IK MYKGE
UFTA COGEXNFUGTVE FOG COGRIUXTFTVMA
COGEXNFUGTVE FOG COGRIUXTFTVMA

—By Conale Rosenfeld

2. OSSE YSNU ZIZZERY JLOREA FLOWERN U
OIFR WLNY YFIZZA SLFFER JSYE

—By Lois M. Jones

3. CX I VXTROHRA VXRNBCLC EBC CWLOL
VIE KL EXCWREM ZUXNNJ IKIBC I MYXA
TUXNNJ ARZV

—By Alvin S. Leber

4. QUOTE PLANYLF MK ATYNI INCL "TRICK
OQ CRICK MHP UOSHAQ OQ SHOTENZ"

—By Ed Huddleston



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE GALL OF YOUTH

Neither vulnerable South deals.
NORTH
♠ 97
♥ K Q J 10 4 2
♦ A K 7
♣ A 8

WEST EAST
♠ K Q 2 ♠ J 8 5 4
♥ A 8 6 ♥ 7 5 3
♦ J 10 9 8 6 3 ♦ 7 5 3
♣ 4 ♣ 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 4
♥ 9
♦ 9
♣ K Q J 10 9 7 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Where is the next generation of bridge players coming from? The American Contract Bridge League is looking for ways to generate youth programs. In Europe, junior championships have been held for years, and a teen tournament will be held later this year. Today's hand, reported by Ib Lundby of Denmark, was played in the Nordic Junior Team Championships late last year.

The Danish North-South pair reached six clubs via an auction similar to the one shown. Since South had not bid spades at his second turn, North knew that his part-

ner was showing a stopper and not a suit. He elected to gamble on a club slam.

West led the king of spades and South, Soren Krasnikoff, was faced with a loser in each major suit and apparently no way to avoid them. Since he would have to lose a spade, he followed to the first trick with the ten of spades! Afraid that declarer was void in hearts, West continued with the queen of spades. Declarer won the ace, ruffed a spade with the ace of trumps, then ran clubs to come down to this position:

NORTH
♠ —
♥ K
♦ A K 7
♣ A K 7

WEST EAST
♠ — ♠ J 7
♥ A ♠ 7
♦ J 10 9 ♦ 7 5 3
♣ — ♣ 5 4
♠ — ♠ 5 4
♣ — ♣ 6

Then declarer led his last trump, West was helplessly squeezed in the red suits. He let go a diamond in the hope that East held queen-third in the suit. Declarer shuffled the king of hearts from the table, and he scored the last three tricks in diamonds and land a cheeky slam.